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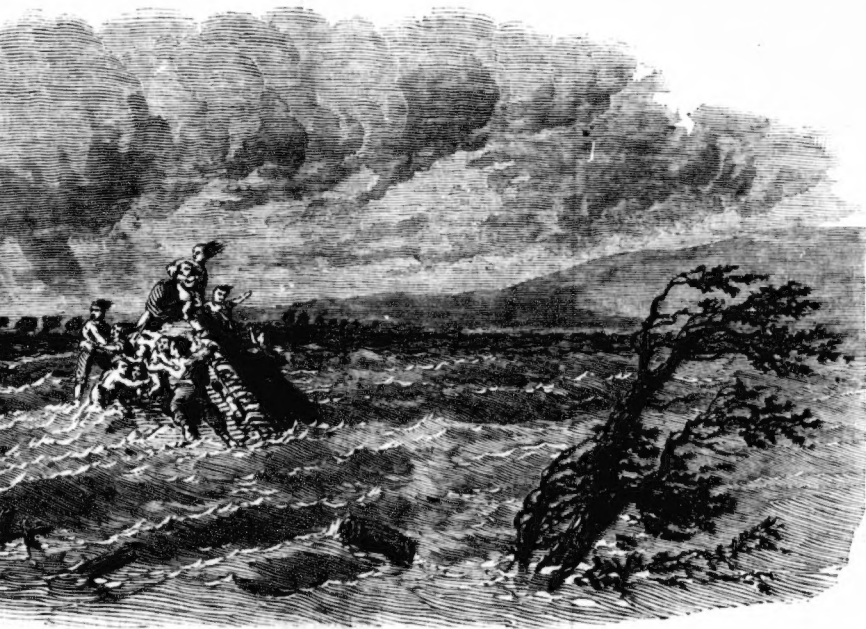
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A PARSONS' STRIKE.

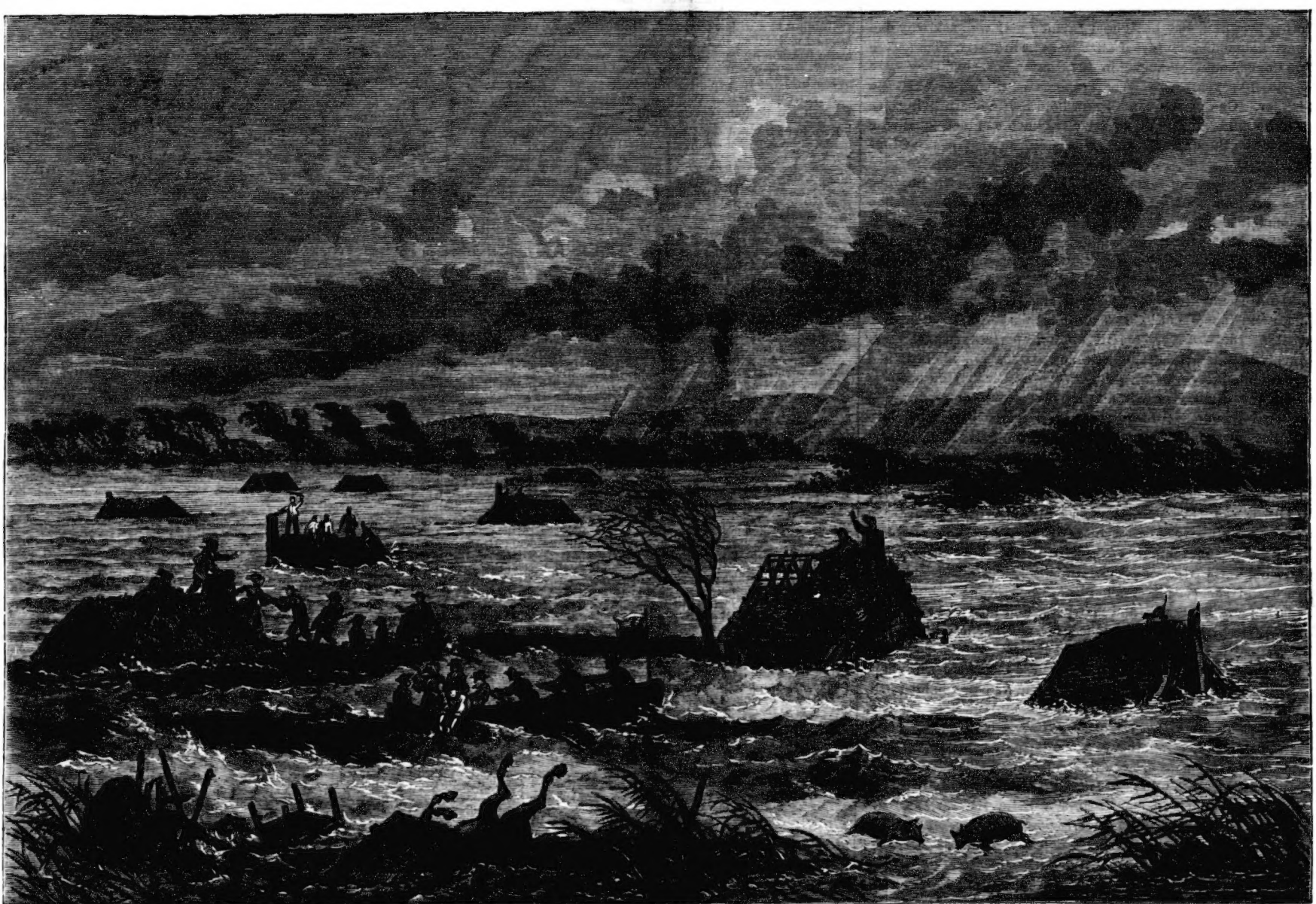
WHO will say that there is nothing new under the sun, or that this is not an age of novelties? "Hair-cutting by machinery" is one of the "latest things out," and now we are threatened with a curates' strike—at least, so says "An Old Incumbent," who writes on the subject to the *Times*, and is sorely troubled by the prospect of this new trades union movement. As, however, the "Old Incumbent's" letter may be susceptible of two interpretations—it may be *bonâ fide* what it seems, or it may be a bit of covert sarcasm levelled at the trades unionism of the learned professions—we place it before our readers in another column, in order that they may form their own conclusions as to its character. But whether this letter be the genuine production of a resident in one of those fat vicarages, in the Fens or elsewhere, which fall to the lot of some clergymen of the Church of England, or a clever but wicked hoax, it



DESTRUCTION OF THE BATHER FAMILY IN THE RICHMOND DISTRICT.

is exceedingly suggestive, and is calculated to stir some topics which many "Old Incumbents" would no doubt rather have left alone.

To begin with, many people will be inclined to think that, considering the very unequal way in which the honours and emoluments of the Church are divided, the Curates—who ought to have the sympathy and support of not a few Incumbents, whose grievances are equally great—are not at all premature in forming their trade union, and meditating a strike. There may have been a time when a clergyman could be "passing rich with forty pounds a year;" but it must have been a good while ago. Certainly that sum is a very miserable pittance for educated gentlemen nowadays, when even a bricklayer's labourer will turn up his nose—and right he is, too—at any sum less than a guinea a week. And yet it is a fact that at this moment there are Curates—ay, and Incumbents also—in the Anglican Establishment, who are not thought worthy of very much more than forty pounds a year; at least, they do not receive it,



RECENT FLOODS IN NEW SOUTH WALES: VIEW OF PENRITH FROM THE GREAT WESTERN ROAD.—(FROM SKETCHES BY WINN AND HABBE, NEW SOUTH WALES)

whatever estimate may be formed of their deservings. In the diocese of York, which is certainly not the poorest in England, there is one living of 2900 inhabitants the income of which is only £50 a year; there are twenty livings which have incomes of less than £60 a year; fifty-nine with incomes of less than £100 a year; twenty-two between that and £200 a year; while only eighty-four out of 276 livings in private patronage reach the munificent income of £300 a year, many of them having populations ranging from 2000 to 8000 souls. These, be it noted, are the incomes enjoyed, not by Curates, but by Incumbents; and if these are the means of living allotted to the latter, what must be the share of this world's goods that falls to the lot of the poor Curates? Yes; "poor Curates" is the exact phrase that describes the condition of that class of clergymen. Of a verity, some of the ministers of the Church of England receive but a miserable remuneration for their services, and the money invested in education and training for their office brings but an inadequate return. These unfortunate Curates, too, are expected to occupy the position and sustain the character of gentlemen, to keep their families respectably clad, and to give alms unto the poor. No wonder that cast-off clothes and charity of all sorts are gratefully received by the poor clergy.

But then, in the Church, as elsewhere, there are compensations; and, if some Incumbents and most Curates starve on pittance ranging from £50 to £150 a year, there are others who are amply provided for, having incomes reaching £2000 a year, and even higher. That, as regards the parochial clergy; but, if we take in the dignitaries of the Church, the compensation is still more satisfactory. The working Curate or Incumbent with £50 a year must be greatly comforted by the fact that the Bishops have none of them less than £4200 a year, and some, we believe, as much as £8000 or £10,000 a year; that the members of the cathedral chapters, Prebendaries, Canons, and Deans, who, as such, do little for the cure of souls, enjoy incomes ranging from £500 up to £2000 or more a year, many—indeed most—of them having benefices besides. Why should a Curate grumble at £50 a year and penury, when he may behold—at a distance—the affluence and comfort of the Canon, or Dean, or Bishop with his thousands? Then the honours of the profession of course go along with the emoluments. The rich dignitaries of the Church are men of mark. They mingle with the great ones of the earth; they sit in high places; they wear sumptuous clothing and have luxuriously furnished homes; they dine at great men's tables and have well-filled cellars and well-stocked larders of their own. And all this while the working Curate or poor Incumbent, who really does labour for the cure of souls, must wear a threadbare cassock, clothe his children in cast-off rags, have scarcely a roof to shelter him, and either no larder at all or nothing to put in it! The Church of England is one of the richest corporations in the world, but of a truth her wealth is badly distributed. The clergy are wont to be somewhat ostentatious in calling each other brethren, but benighted laymen may well ask why one parson should better fare if all parsons be brothers. Things are no doubt better managed in the Church now than they were some fifty years ago. The scandals of pluralism exist no longer. One parson cannot now hold half a dozen livings, as erst he might. Nor do we see clergymen conducting Divine service on Sunday and acting as stablemen at country inns during the week, as was the case in at least one instance within the last ten years. Much has been done to improve the position and character of the clergy since Bishop Blomfield's Act of 1837. But there are still gross abuses in the Establishment to reform, and grave grievances to redress. Really, it is not a bit too soon for the Curates and Incumbents of lean benefices to form a trade union and threaten a strike.

That is one line of reflection suggested by the letter of "An Old Incumbent." But there is another, and perhaps, to the sacerdotal order, a still more important, consideration involved in it. Trades unions and strikes are alleged, and with some justice, to have the effect of either driving business from the country or stimulating inventions for superseding manual labour. And might not a parsons' strike have similar effects? The case, as stated by the "Old Incumbent," is a dispute between the Incumbents and the Curates—that is, between the masters and the servants, the employers and the employed, the rich and the poor in the Church: "the Church," in this connection, as in most others, meaning the clergy. Now, if the selfishness of the one class and the discontented rebelliousness of the other should deprive their flocks of the accustomed spiritual care and supervision—should the work of preaching and teaching, of baptising, and marrying, and burying, and soul-saving generally, be suspended for a time, might not the flocks—it is a terrible thought, but it may be realised—might not the flocks discover that they can do without the shepherds? might not every man—it is a more horrible idea still, but it, too, is capable of realisation—might not, we say, every man take a fancy to be his own priest, and dispense with parsonship altogether? Some daringly wicked spirits are disposed to act thus even now, and further folly in the clerical ranks may induce others to go and do likewise. As it is, the clergy sometimes drive matters a little too far, and are exalting the horn of assumption higher every day. They have what is equivalent to a trade union and trade rules. They call themselves our spiritual pastors and masters; they prescribe the doctrines we shall believe and the morals we shall practise; they demand implicit obedience in matters of faith and discipline; they even assume a right to control and direct our education; they claim a monopoly of certain offices, and assert a special right to perform certain func-

tions; and they denounce and "ratten," with a vigour worthy of Broadhead, all who dare to impugn their authority, to infringe their rules, to invade their special domain, or to poach upon their sacred preserves. Were they to allow this quarrel to come to a head, were the threatened Curates' strike to take place, were the clergy to abdicate their functions, neglect their duties, and leave the people to their own devices—or, rather, their own resources—men might be led to question more closely the pretensions of parsondom than they have heretofore done; and the work of soul-curing, and the incomes derived therefrom, might pass into other hands. We submit that it behoves the clergy to look well to their position, to set their house in order, to heal differences among themselves, to moderate their class pretensions, to deal even-handed justice one to another, and to divide the Church's wealth more equitably; or the work may be undertaken by others, and parsons, both rich and poor, find their occupation gone—and their incomes with it.

THE FLOODS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE floods which took place in New South Wales in June last have been of a most destructive character. Whole districts on the Hunter, Hawkesbury, and other rivers, have been laid waste, and a lamentable loss of life and property has resulted. The *Sydney Mail* of June 20, speaking of the inundations, says:—

A great part of our issue this week is devoted to the narrative of floods. It is a tale of sudden desolation. Hundreds of families have been compelled, amid the pelting of the pitiless storm, to leave their homes and huddle together for shelter on the nearest rising ground. Some of them, unable to help themselves, have had to remain for hours clinging to the roof till friendly boats relieved them from their peril. We have not yet received full accounts from all parts of the colony, and do not know how many rivers have been flooded, but the rainfall has certainly extended from the Hunter to the Clyde. The most remarkable rise of water has been on the Hawkesbury, where the flood has passed the limit of all recent inundations. To find anything like it we must go back to the very early days of the colony, when in the year 1808 a great flood occurred, to the astonishment and ruin of the then settlers. The records, however, of that time are too scanty to enable us to say exactly to what height the waters then rose, but it seems probable that these two floods were of about the same magnitude. From the experience thus gained we may reasonably conclude that, while these extreme floods will not happen often, they may occur once or twice in the century, and, of course, the maximum line must be distinctly traced and marked on local plans; if not on the ground, because, after what has occurred, it would be folly, if not worse, to build fresh houses within that line, unless they are built upon piles, so as to raise the floor level above the reach of floods. The first flood took the settlers by surprise, but no flood is now a surprise. The physical geography of the country and the rainfall being now well understood, we know, as a matter of course, that floods are sure to happen whenever very heavy rains continue for two or three days. It is as certain as anything in nature can be that, while the climate remains the same, and no fresh channels are cut to discharge the water, the floods will happen periodically. On an average of perhaps once in every half dozen years all houses built on the flats will be flooded. The people who live in those houses will have to turn out, and that, too, at so short a notice as to be quite unable to drive off their live stock, much less to cart away their furniture and their barn produce. This being the case, prudence clearly requires either that people should not build houses and barns on the flats, or that they should raise them above the water level, or that they should have a boat available for any emergency, and that, so far as they risk their property, they should cover it by insurance, or else insure it themselves by laying up, in good times, a sum to cover the losses that are sure to be incurred when the floods come.

The gloomiest forebodings as to probable loss of life are prevalent. One of many similar scenes is that depicted in our Engraving. William and George Eather, farmers, living at Cornwallis, placed their wives and children on the roofs of their houses, and there clung with them, awaiting help, until the rising waters washed them off. The two wives and their ten children were overwhelmed in the flood; and the husbands saved themselves and one little boy by swimming to a willow tree, from which they were shortly afterwards rescued and taken in a boat to Richmond. It is said that they made fruitless attempts to save their wives and children, and that one of the poor women, seeing the impossibility of escape, begged of her husband to save himself and not to mind her.

A correspondent of the paper named above, writing from the Penrith and Bathurst district, says:—

Even in its best and smoothest condition the Great Western-road is by no means a pleasant thoroughfare to travel upon. The most primitive bush track would bear favourable comparison with some portions of it. And, though large sums of money have been expended upon it—literally thrown into the mud—the Great Western-road certainly exhibits some of the very worst specimens of macadamisation that ever came under my notice. The road over Lapstone Hill is the only portion between Penrith and Bathurst that is easily passable. Elsewhere the track is more like the sinuous bed of a ravine torn up by furious mountain torrents. The metal used in the formation of this admirable highway is a soft kind of sandstone, which is soon pulverised by traffic, and which, therefore, tends to increase the evil that it is meant to remedy. The hollows and deep runs are filled with this rubbish, which is soon crushed into dust, and then the first rain turns the holes so filled up into treacherous quagmires. Then, again, the constant succession of "ups and downs" which the adventurous traveller experiences while journeying along the fine "artery of commerce"—which some grandiloquent M.L.A. has called it—is both fatiguing to one's body and exasperating to one's temper. The most sophisticated philanthropist would have the milk of human kindness almost entirely churned out of him by a trip along that thoroughfare—and the most resigned and easy-tempered of mortals would feel inclined to murmur at his unhappy lot were he placed in a similar position. Had I not seen the road—travelled upon it—got myself bumped into a quaking mass of crumbling humanity—I would not have believed that such a wretched apology for a main trunk line existed in the colony. It is indescribably bad. It is so rough, and sloppy, and ill made, and boggy, and water-worn, and neglected, that, from personal observation of what it now is, one is at a loss to say what it may once have been. How teams can travel at all in wet weather is a mystery; and I'm sure that Cobb's coaches must be made of some magically strong material, or they never could stand the racketing that they do. The amiable reader, unacquainted with the locality, will probably imagine that I exaggerate the evil. No such thing. No description could exaggerate it; and that so important a thoroughfare should remain in such a deplorable condition is a disgrace to the colony. The cost of maintenance would not be very great, and no doubt those who use the road would be glad to pay additional tolls if they could but have it properly repaired. Of course, the railway will, when completed, absorb a good deal of the traffic; but still the public should not be inconvenienced while they are waiting for the railway to begin its work. The main roads will be much used even after the train commences running, and they ought to be kept in, at any rate, a moderately good state of repair. Moreover, the opening of the railway beyond Penrith seems likely to be delayed for some little time longer. The repairs to the line will take a few weeks—the officials say "a few days"; but I may safely venture to extend the term, for it will take at least a fortnight to repair the Penrith bridge—and if the train begins to run to the Weatherboard within the next month, people may think themselves lucky.

The floods having so much injured the western approach to the Penrith Bridge as to render it impassable, and the punts being swept away, the mails have to be carried over on foot, and placed in the mail-coach on the other side. On the Emu Plains, near Lucas's place, the road has been completely gutted, embankment and metal having been washed away for a distance of about 200 yards. At this point the coach has to leave the track and cross the plain returning to the road again just before reaching the post-office at Emu Plains. Thence to Wascote's Inn, at the top of Lapstone, there are no difficulties to encounter save the ascent of the hill, which is not very trying, the traveller may bid adieu to anything like comfort. Large holes have been washed in the road, and many of these are filled with soft yellow mud, into which the wheels sink to the axles. In many places the scouring of the water has swept away the earth, and left the large stones used in forming the basis of the road quite bare. The passage over these boulders may be better imagined than described, and indeed it would be very hard by mere words to convey anything like a true idea of the obstructions which impede the flow of traffic through this "artery of commerce." The railway embankments, which are for the most part to be seen from the been swept down to the line where it runs through cuttings. Ellison's Penrith and Bus's, whence to Russart's public-house—three miles fur-

ther on—the road is in rather a more passable condition. From Bus's the waters of the Nepean may be seen, about twelve miles away, spreading out over the country below Penrith. They resemble a vast sheet of silver, and have a very pretty effect—more picturesque than agreeable, I fancy, to most of those who behold them.

Penrith, as seen from Lapstone Hill, presents a singular appearance. The flood has subsided, leaving behind it vast accumulations of debris, heaps of mud, and pools of water in every direction. The flats and low lands wear a sombre tinge, as if the verdant fields had put on a mourning-dress. The desolated huts cropping up here and there in the dreary waste are inconceivably dismal-looking. I have never seen so miserable a spectacle. The grief that is lying at so many hearts seems to have saddened even the face of Nature. The very animals, what few there are, seem to be infected by it, and have a woe-begone, dissipated aspect. The river—broad, muddy, swift—glides on as if it had never been the instrument of desolating homes or blighting the hopes of mortals. The losses caused by this flood are fearful. It is impossible to estimate them. Hundreds are rendered penniless and homeless. Many, from being well-to-do, are reduced to abject destitution. It is pitiable to witness so much misery.

It is impossible to give full details of the mischief done by these floods, and the particulars we have printed in connection with the scenes of our Illustrations must only be taken as specimens of what occurred in extensive districts of the country.

DEATH OF AN AFRICAN KING.—From advices by the French mail from the west coast of Africa we learn of the death of the warrior chief Mappa, who has for the last six years been a fearful scourge among the native tribes inhabiting the countries bordering on the English and French territories in the Senegambia. Mappa, in 1861, was a chief of but little importance in the kingdom of Baddiboo. He was, however, a staunch Mohammedan, and, watching his opportunity, in that year he rebelled against his pagan King, put him to death, and assumed the supreme rule of the country. With fire and sword he established the religion of Islam, killing all those who would not shave their heads and swear on the Koran their adherence to his faith. This fanatical warrior, elated by the success he had obtained over his negro brethren, in June, 1866, sent an invading army into the British territory on the Gambia; but he was repulsed and sustained great losses from the able strategy of the Governor, Colonel D'Arcy. Mappa, however, then thought he would attack the French, and in December of the same year, with 4000 warriors, surrounded a party of 800 European French troops and massacred them all, with the exception of nine who alone escaped to tell the sad tale. The sacrifices and customs of the King of Dahomey are but a trifle compared to the slaughter and misery this fanatic Mappa has by a ruthless policy, inflicted on the unoffending negro races. This mail, however, brings the news that he has been captured in battle by Joliffe, the King of Seign, and his head and hands sent exultingly by that King, as a trophy of successful war, to the Governor of the French settlements on the Senegal. It has been computed that no less than 20,000 human beings have been killed or have died through starvation, or have been abducted and sold into slavery, by this monster Mappa under the cloak of religion, so that now his career is ended it is hoped that peace and prosperity may be restored to these unhappy countries.

THE GRAVE OF ROBERT BROUGH.—It is not generally known in Manchester that the late Robert B. Brough, poet, essayist, playwright, and humourist, died in this city, and was buried in the cemetery in Regent-road. A few of his literary friends and coadjutors in London intend, it is understood, to erect a simple memorial over his grave, which is at present unmarked and without a stone. Mr. Brough deserves at least this modest tribute to his worth and genius. And he deserves also that the best of his works—the ripe fruit of his varied career—should be better known than they are. There would be no more certain means of accomplishing this than by the publication of a volume containing selections from his multifarious contributions to the literature of the time, most of which are scattered about in different periodicals, and are unknown to all but a very few of his intimate friends. Mr. Brough was born in London in 1828. Much of his life, up to the age of fifteen, was spent amongst the coal-miners of Pembroke. From Wales he was removed to Manchester, where he was employed as a clerk in a cornfactor's office, and afterwards occupied some position in a print warehouse. For commercial pursuits, however, he had no aptitude, and at the age of nineteen he began his literary career at Liverpool, first as co-editor with Mr. William Brough, of the *Liverpool Lion*, and next as joint author, also with his brother William, of "The Enchanted Isle" burlesque. From Liverpool he went to London. It is impossible to follow him through all the phases of his active career in the metropolis, but it may justly be said that few men, even in this stage of intellectual over-exertion, surpassed Mr. Robert Brough in the quantity or variety of his literary work. He edited the *Man in the Moon*, *Mephistopheles*, and the *Atlas* newspaper; contributed to *Diogenes*, the *Comic Times*, *Household Words*, the *Welcome Guest*, and *All the Year Round*; was for a time Brussels correspondent of the *Sunday Times*; and wrote Christmas books, parodies, farces, and burlesques without end. But it is as a poet that he best deserves to be remembered. Many readers know "Neighbour Nelly," "Totty's Consolations," and the "Tentmaker's Story," who do not know that he was the author of them; and his narrative poems and verses about children have the rare grace and tenderness that belong to genius alone. He died in Manchester, on June 26, 1860, at the age of thirty-two, having crowded into his brief life an amount of genuine, honest work which, under happier and more fortunate circumstances, would have placed his name among the foremost authors of our time.—*Manchester Free Lance*.

INTERESTING GATHERING OF NON-UNIONISTS.—The miners and iron-workers of Staveley (Derbyshire) have earned for themselves a wide reputation by the attitude they have taken in trade union matters. It is scarcely twelve months ago since a contest arose amongst them as to whether trades unionism on the principle of free labour should prevail, and the result has been that the non-unionists have succeeded in conquering their opponents. This new state of things was brought about in a great measure by the firmness and straightforward conduct of Mr. Markham, managing director of the Staveley Coal and Iron Company. The workmen, to mark their sense of the benefits, both pecuniary and social, which they have received through the efforts of Mr. Markham, have subscribed together and purchased a handsome testimonial, which was presented to him, on Monday evening, in the presence of a very large and influential gathering of miners and employers of labour. The Duke of Devonshire, who was one of the speakers, said, if he had thought the meeting would be considered as the celebration of a victory after a struggle between employers and employed, he should have thought it his duty to absent himself. The distinguishing feature of these proceedings was that they were met to celebrate the victory of good sense and good judgment on the part of the men, in spite of bad advice liberally given them. He did not know enough of those who came into the district to produce change and discontent to impute bad motives to them; but he referred to the fact that certain advice was given which, in his opinion, was bad. They (the workmen) found that it was to their interests to have no fetters upon their labour, and to work as they thought best for themselves. The result was that non-unionism prevailed and acquired the preponderance. This was an event which deserved to be known throughout the country. It was a proof that the workmen felt that there was no real antagonism in the interests of capital and labour, and that where there was a will there was certainly a way for a good understanding between employer and employed. He trusted that this good understanding would long continue, and that that day would be long remembered as one of the brightest and most remarkable that had ever occurred in the history of Staveley.

FATAL ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC IN A SMALL BOAT.—A small boat, the John T. Ford, has been lost in attempting to cross the Atlantic. One man, Andrew Armstrong, escaped, and he tells the tale. The little craft left Baltimore on June 22, and, after putting into Halifax, she finally left on her cruise for Europe on July 16, her crew consisting of four persons—Captain Gould, the master; Shering, the mate; Armstrong, the survivor; and Murphy, a lad. On the afternoon of the 6th ult., a sea struck the boat and she turned over, but righted again almost immediately. She lost all her oil, however, which was necessary for the light at her compass, and the crew suffered much from cramp and the loss of water. The hands then cut up the boards that secured the ballast, and the internal fittings, in order to burn and obtain a light for the compass. Heavy gales from the S.W. to E.N.E. were experienced, with a cross sea; and on Monday, the 19th ult., she bore up for Cork, when, about 10.30 p.m., a sea struck the boat and turned her over, and the ballast-boards being kept turning right over as the four hands endeavoured to get on her, until the lad got entangled between the rigging and the mast, and she was so kept steady. The men were in this position until noon of the following day, being frequently washed off by the seas, when a sail was observed bearing down upon them; and for a time they were in hopes of being relieved. The sail, however, passed by without rendering them help. The mate, Shering, then asked Armstrong and the survivors to pray with him, and they continued to do so for some time. The mate then shook hands with all of them, and kissed the likeness of his wife; he then became much excited, and, after biting the captain's leg, fell off the boat and perished. The same evening the lad Murphy asked Armstrong to make him fast, which was done, to his belt; but shortly afterwards a heavy sea swept him off, and he disappeared. The captain and Armstrong were washed off; and the captain, as he went away and sank, cried, "God help my poor wife and family!" Armstrong succeeded in regaining the bottom of the boat, and remained on her till four a.m. on the 23rd, without the slightest nourishment, and after being washed off by the heavy seas, when the ship Aerolite, Captain Alleyne, of Liverpool, discerned the shreds of canvas which were flying from the car which he was enabled to raise, and bore down to him. In a very exhausted and almost insensible condition, he was taken off the bottom of the boat and got on board the Aerolite, where he received every kindness and attention. In a day or so he was transferred on board the Mary Blake, from Antigua, which brought him on to London. The dimensions of the John T. Ford were 19 ft. length of keel, 22 ft. 6 in. overhull, 7 ft. beam, and 2 ft. 6 in. depth of hold.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

With the view of removing all suspicion and jealousy from the mind of Prussia with regard to the late conferences at Salzburg, it is said that France and Austria have addressed special notes to the Berlin Cabinet of a reassuring nature.

The Emperor, on his passage through Amiens, on his return from Lille, was presented with an address by the Mayor of that town. His Majesty, in reply, said:—

I have crossed France with the Empress, from Strasbourg to Dunkirk, and our hearty and sympathetic reception everywhere has filled us with the liveliest gratitude. Nothing, I perceive with pleasure, can shake the confidence which for twenty years the French people have placed in me. They have estimated at their real value the difficulties I have had to surmount. The ill success of our policy across the ocean has not diminished the prestige of our arms, since everywhere the valour of our soldiers overcame all opposition. The events accomplished in Germany have not caused our country to depart from a calm and dignified attitude, and it relies with justice on the maintenance of peace.

The excitement of a small minority has not caused us to lose the hope of seeing more liberal institutions peacefully introduced in our public life. The temporary stagnation in commercial affairs has not prevented the industrial classes from showing me their sympathy and from relying upon the efforts of the Government to give a fresh impetus to commerce. I have found with pleasure those sentiments of confidence and devotion existing at Amiens and in the whole department of the Somme, which places have always shown a sincere attachment to me, and where a residence of six years proved to me that misfortune is a good school in which to learn to support the burden of power and to avoid the dangers of fortune.

Following upon these utterances the Marquis de Moustier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has dispatched a note to the French diplomatic agents abroad with the assurance that the object of the visit to Salzburg was solely one of courtesy and condolence, and that the interview between the two Emperors formed a guarantee for the peace of Europe.

The Minister of War has issued orders, dated the 24th ult., to the commanders of the different regiments to strike off the rolls all men under their command belonging to the Guard and the Line whose term of service expires in 1869, and to place them on the rolls of the reserve. Another decree has been issued, dated the 19th ult., increasing the number of six months' furloughs.

The election of a deputy to the Legislative Body for the department of Isere has resulted in the return of M. Riondel, the candidate of the Opposition, by 16,000 votes. M. Kleber, the official candidate, obtained 13,000 votes.

SPAIN.

The Spanish insurrection is apparently at an end. It is stated that it was planned by General Prim, and that the arrangement was that the military and the people should rise together on Aug. 15. The people rose, but the military held back, and thus the insurrection failed.

PRUSSIA.

The North German Parliament has been convoked for Oct. 10.

We have it on the authority of a semi-official journal at Vienna that Prussia has expressed her readiness, in a despatch from Count Bismarck, to enter into direct and confidential negotiations with Denmark, on the question of North Schleswig. It will be remembered that the point at issue is the right reserved to the inhabitants of that part of the duchy, under the Treaty of Prague, to decide whether they will cast in their lot with the little Danish kingdom or the great and growing Power of North Germany, with Prussia at its head. Should this portion of the treaty be honestly carried out, it will help to disentangle one thread at all events of the complicated web of Continental politics, at present the subject of so much speculation and misgiving.

AUSTRIA.

A Vienna official paper publishes a despatch, said to be from Baron von Beust to the Austrian Minister at Munich, requesting him to inform the Bavarian Cabinet that the recent negotiations at Salzburg bore no reference to South Germany. Further, he says that France and Austria have resolved not to interfere in the affairs of foreign countries.

It is stated that an agreement has been come to between Hungary and Austria as to the proportion the former shall bear of the debt and expenditure of the empire. This matter has been under discussion for some time. Austria wanted Hungary to pay more than she thought right, and all endeavours to come to an agreement failed. It is stated that the Emperor at last interfered, and his counsels have brought about the desired end.

TURKEY.

The Sublime Porte has issued a new circular to the Great Powers announcing the complete defeat of the Candiot insurgents, and stating that the only thing now to be done is to reorganise the political administration of the island. An amnesty is to be accorded to the Cretans who took part in the revolt. An Athens telegram states that hostilities in Candia are suspended, and that it is likely an international commission of inquiry will shortly be dispatched to the island.

Turkey will very speedily reap the advantages of the late visit of the Sultan to Europe. The concession for a line of railway from Constantinople to Belgrade has already been granted to the Serbian company; and, at a council of Ministers, the Sultan spoke in favour of the construction of railways throughout the empire.

ROUMANIA.

A new Ministry has been formed at Bucharest, which is composed as follows:—Stephen Goleasco, President and Minister of the Interior; Louis Steege, Minister of Finance; Demeter Bratianu, Minister of Public Works; Alexandre Teriakion, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Colonel Adrian, Minister of War; Antoine Arion, Minister of Justice. M. Goleasco will perform the duties of Minister of Foreign Affairs until the arrival of M. Teriakion.

THE UNITED STATES.

The slight difference between President Johnson and General Grant, arising out of the removal of Sheridan to the command of the department of Missouri, is at an end; but the dismissal of Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War has created an agitation among the Radical section of the soldiers and sailors, who have held a great caucus both at Washington and Philadelphia, when the ex-Secretary's conduct was warmly applauded and that of the President indignantly condemned. President Johnson has ordered General Hancock to relieve General Sheridan, General Thomas, who was to replace Sheridan, being ill.

General Grant is discharging numerous superfluous employes from the War Department.

Several clubs are organising at Washington, Cincinnati, and elsewhere, in favour of Mr. Johnson's re-election as President when his present term of office shall have expired.

The captain of a steamer plying between Charleston and Beaufort has been fined for refusing a negro woman a first-class passage.

Cholera of a malignant type has appeared in Illinois.

MEXICO.

It is now stated that the body of Maximilian was not delivered to Baron Magnus, but is lying in the Church of Queretaro. Admiral Tegethoff has proceeded to Mexico, with the intention, it is believed, of obtaining an interview with Juarez and personally requesting the delivery of the late Emperor's remains.

INDIA.

Favourable accounts are received from the famine districts; the distress is abating and the crops are thriving. Cholera still prevails in the north-west provinces of the Punjab. Bengal is reported healthy. There is abundant rain, and the harvest prospects are good.

MR. GEORGE PEABODY has lately given 2000 dols. each to the Peabody and Holden High Schools, at Danvers, Mass., the income of which is to be used for giving medals and prizes to the pupils.

A MINISTER having preached the same discourse to his people three times, one of his constant hearers said to him after service, "Doctor, the sermon you gave us this morning had three several readings; I move that it now be passed."

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

THE Foreign Office has just issued a series of papers on the questions between this country and America arising out of the late war. The correspondence commences with a long despatch from Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, containing a summary of the numerous claims occasioned by the captures made by the Sumter, Alabama, Florida, Shenandoah, and "other ships of war which were built, manned, armed, equipped, and fitted out in British ports, and dispatched therefrom by or through the agency of British subjects, and which were harboured, sheltered, provided and furnished as occasion required, during their devastating career, in ports of the realm, or in ports of British colonies in nearly all parts of the globe." This despatch is followed by a reply from Lord Stanley, disputing the broad assertion respecting the nationality of the above named vessels, and contesting the statements of Mr. Seward as to the responsibility of the British Government. In a letter of Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, dated the 12th of January last, the American minister replies:—

It is, indeed, true, as Lord Stanley has observed, that the Alabama, when she left England, was wholly unarmed and not fully equipped as a war vessel. It is also true that she received an armament, a further equipment, a commander, and a crew in Angra Bay, Azores—a possession of the Crown of Portugal—where the British Government had no jurisdiction, and could exercise no lawful control, even if they had an opportunity. But, on the other hand, it is to be remembered that, not only was the vessel built at Liverpool, but the armament and the supplemental equipment were built and provided there also, simultaneously and by the same British hands, and also that the commander and crew were gathered and organised at the same time and the same place; the whole vessel, armament, equipment, commander and crew were adapted, each part to the other; and all were prepared for one complete expedition. The parts were fraudulently separated in Liverpool, to be put together elsewhere, and they were fraudulently conveyed thence to Angra Bay, and there put fraudulently together by her Majesty's subjects, not less in violation of British than of Portuguese obligations to the United States. The offenders were never brought to justice by her Majesty's Government, nor complained of by that Government to the Queen of Portugal. The Alabama, from the laying of her timbers in Liverpool until her destruction by the Kearsage, off Cherbourg, never once entered any port or waters of the United States. Whatever pretended commission she ever had as a ship of war must have been acquired either in Great Britain or some other foreign country at peace with the United States, or on the high seas. Nevertheless, the Alabama was received, protected, entertained, and supplied in her devastating career in the British ports of Capetown and Singapore in the East, and when she was finally sunk, in the British Channel, her commander and crew were, with fraudulent connivance, rescued by British subjects and ostentatiously entertained and caressed as meritorious but unfortunate heroes at Southampton.

Further on, he says it will appear from unpublished documents in our Foreign Office that the American Government, who have since been told they ought themselves to have seen the law obeyed, "that at the time when the fraudulent building, arming, and equipping of these vessels were going on in England, they were required, out of tenderness to British sensibilities and with the approval of her Majesty's Government, to relax rather than increase our vigilance, then called by the repulsive name of espionage."

After this, he denies our right to treat the Southerners as belligerents at all:—

Lord Stanley defends the Queen's Proclamation by quoting against me certain utterances of the Supreme Court of the United States, and of the district of Columbia, of which he says her Majesty's Government has seen no refutation. Certainly it is not my purpose to refute these utterances; they were made by learned and loyal tribunals. Moreover, Lord Stanley understands them correctly as showing that, at the time they were pronounced, it was the opinion of those Courts that a civil war was actually existing in the United States, and that it was existing at the time when the causes of action arose in the cases which the Courts were adjudicating. I may admit, further, that the Courts referred to the President's proclamation, which preceded the Queen's neutrality proclamation, as one among the facts which proved that the controversy here was not a mere local insurrection, but had all the gravity, character, and consequences of a civil war. But I must insist, on the other hand,—first, that neither of the judicial utterances referred to asserts or admits that the President's blockade proclamation expressly and in form declared or recognised the existence of civil war; and, in the second place, that both of these judicial utterances unmistakably imply the contrary. The District Court of Columbia pronounced its opinion on June 17, 1861. The Supreme Court of the United States withheld its opinion until March 10, 1862. The capture which constituted the cause of action in the District Court occurred on May 21, 1861; the captures concerning which the Supreme Court of the United States adjudicated occurred on May 17, 1861, May 20, 1861, and June 23, 1861, and July 10, 1861. The Queen's proclamation of neutrality had appeared before either Court pronounced its opinion, and before either cause of action arose. British subjects were claimants in some, and other foreigners were claimants in others, of these litigations. Among the facts of which the Supreme Court took notice, and which they set forth as the grounds of their opinion, is the following:—"As soon as the news of the attack on Fort Sumter and the organisation of a Government of the seceding States assuming to act as belligerents could become known in Europe—to wit, on May 13, 1861—the Queen of England issued her proclamation of neutrality, recognising hostilities as existing between the Government of the United States of America and certain States styling themselves the Confederate States of America. This was immediately followed by similar declarations or silent acquiescence by other nations."

After dwelling on the subject at great length, Mr. Seward concludes with a reference to the Fenians:—

The Fenian movement neither begins nor ends in the United States; the movers in those proceedings are not native citizens of the United States, but they are natives of Great Britain, though some of them have assumed naturalisation in the United States. Their quarrel with Great Britain is not an American, but a British one, as old (I sincerely hope it may not be as lasting) as the union of the United Kingdom. Their aim is not American, but British revolution. In seeking to make the territory of the United States a base for the organisation of a republic in Ireland, and of military and naval operations for its establishment there, they allege that they have followed as an example proceedings of British subjects in regard to our civil war allowed by her Majesty's Government. The policy and proceedings of the two Governments in regard to those parallel movements have not assimilated. The United States Government has not recognised the Irish republic as a belligerent, and has disarmed its forces when found within our territories and waters. With regard to the manner in which this protracted controversy shall be brought to an end, we agree entirely with the sentiments expressed by Lord Stanley. We should even think it better that it be brought to an end, which might, perhaps, in some degree disappoint the parties, than that it should continue to alienate the two nations, each of which is powerful enough to injure the other deeply, while the maintenance of conflicting principles in regard to intervention would be a calamity to all nations. The United States think it not only easier but more desirable that Great Britain should acknowledge and satisfy the claims for indemnity which we have submitted, than it would be to find an equal and wise arbitrator who would consent to adjudicate them. If, however, her Majesty's Government, for reasons satisfactory to them, should prefer the remedy of arbitration, the United States would not object. The United States in that case would expect to refer the whole controversy just as it is found in the correspondence which has taken place between the two Governments, with such further evidence and arguments as either party may desire, without imposing restrictions, conditions, or limitations upon the umpire, and without waiving any principle or argument on either side. They cannot consent to waive any question upon the consideration that it involves a point of national honour; and, on the other hand, they will not require that any question of national pride or honour shall be expressly ruled and determined as such. If her Majesty's Government shall concur in these views, the President will be ready to treat concerning the choice of an umpire.

In his reply to the foregoing despatch, dated March 9, 1867, Lord Stanley declines to go over the whole ground traversed by Mr. Seward, but says:—

In my despatch of Nov. 30 I explained to you the grounds on which her Majesty's Government could not consent to refer to a foreign Power to determine whether the policy of recognising the Confederate States as a belligerent Power was or was not suitable to the circumstances of the time when that recognition was made, but I at the same time expressed the willingness of her Majesty's Government to entertain in a friendly spirit any proposal which might be made to them by the Government of the United States, to refer to arbitration other questions which have arisen between the two Governments in reference to the late war, and I desired you to invite Mr. Seward to state what were the precise points which in his opinion might be and ought to be so dealt with. Mr. Seward, in his despatch of Jan. 12, while suggesting that Great Britain should acknowledge and satisfy the claims for indemnity which we have submitted, than it would be to find an equal and wise arbitrator who would consent to adjudicate them," goes on to say that if her Majesty's Government should prefer the remedy of arbitration, the United States would not object, but in that case "would expect to refer the whole controversy just as it is found in the correspondence which has taken place between the two Governments, with such further evidence and arguments as either party may desire, without

imposing restrictions, conditions, or limitations upon the umpire, and without waiving any principle or argument on either side." To such an extensive and unlimited reference her Majesty's Government cannot consent; for this reason, among others, that it would admit of, and, indeed, compel, the submission to the arbiters of the very question which I have already said they cannot agree to submit. The real matter at issue between the two Governments, when kept apart from collateral considerations, is, whether in the matters connected with the vessels out of whose depredations the claims of American citizens have arisen, the course pursued by the British Government and by those who acted under its authority was such as would involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British Government to make good, either in whole or in part, the losses of American citizens. This is a plain and simple question, easily to be considered by an arbiter, and admitting of solution without rising other and wider issues; and on this question her Majesty's Government are fully prepared to go to arbitration, with the further provision that if the decision of the arbiter is unfavourable to the British view, the examination of the several claims of citizens of the United States shall be referred to a mixed commission, with a view to the settlement of the sums to be paid on them. But as they consider it of great importance for the maintenance of good understanding between the two countries that the adjudication of this question in favour of one or other of the parties should not leave other questions of claim in which their respective subjects or citizens may be interested, to be matter of further disagreement between the two countries, her Majesty's Government, with a view to the common interest of both, think it necessary, as you have already apprised Mr. Seward in your letter of Jan. 7, "in the event of an understanding being come to between the two Governments as to the manner in which the special American claims" (which have formed the subject of the correspondence of which my present despatch is the sequel) "should be dealt with, that, under a convention to be separately, but simultaneously concluded, the general claims of the subjects and citizens of the two countries arising out of the events of the late war should be submitted to a mixed commission, with a view to their eventual payment by the Government that may be judged responsible for them." Such, then, is the proposal which her Majesty's Government desire to submit to the Government of the United States. Limited reference to arbitration in regard to the so-called Alabama claims, and adjudication by means of a mixed commission of general claims. You will read this despatch to Mr. Seward, and furnish him with a copy of it, as the deliberate reply of her Majesty's Government to his despatch of Jan. 12, and in doing so you will express to him the earnest hope of her Majesty's Government that their present proposal will be accepted by the Cabinet of Washington in the spirit in which it is made.

The two following despatches of Lord Stanley complete the correspondence:—

Foreign Office, May 2, 1867.
Sir,—Mr. Adams has this day communicated to me the substance of a despatch which he had received from Mr. Seward in reply to the proposal which you were instructed by my despatch of March 9 to make on the subject of the claims arising out of the civil war in the United States. In this despatch Mr. Seward states that the Government of the United States adhere to the view which they formerly expressed as to the best way of dealing with these claims. They cannot, consequently, consent to a special and peculiar limitation of arbitration in regard to the Alabama claims such as her Majesty's Government suggest. They cannot give any preference to the Alabama claims over others in regard to the form of arbitration suggested; and, while they agree that all mutual claims which arose during the civil war between citizens and subjects of the two countries ought to be amicably and speedily adjusted, they must insist that they be adjusted by one and the same form of tribunal, with like and the same forms, and on principles common to all. The President of the United States, therefore, respectfully declines the proposal of her Majesty's Government; but, re-echoing the feelings of goodwill which have been expressed on the part of Great Britain, the United States Government will cheerfully receive any further suggestions that her Majesty's Government may have to offer.

Foreign Office, May 24, 1867.
Sir,—I abstained in my despatch of the 2d inst. from making any observations on the communication from Mr. Adams to which that despatch referred, in the expectation that I might receive from you some further explanation, as given to you by Mr. Seward, of the views of the American Government on the subject. Not having heard from you, I must conclude that Mr. Seward has not made you acquainted with the nature of his reply sent through Mr. Adams to your communication to him of my despatch of March 9. I have nothing, therefore, beyond the brief statement made to me by Mr. Adams to guide me in dealing with Mr. Seward's reply. In that reply Mr. Seward says clearly enough that the Government of the United States cannot consent to a special and peculiar limitation of arbitration in regard to the Alabama claims, such as her Majesty's Government suggest; but from his next observation it might be inferred that the offer as regards arbitration made by her Majesty's Government in my despatch of March 9 was understood to have applied only to the claims arising out of the proceedings of the Alabama, to the exclusion of those arising out of the like proceedings of the Florida, Shenandoah, and Georgia. It is important to clear up this point, and you will therefore state to Mr. Seward that the offer to go to arbitration was not restricted to the claims arising out of the proceedings of the Alabama, but applied equally to those arising out of the like proceedings of the other vessels that I have named. In the words of my despatch of March 9 the matter at issue between the two Governments on which Great Britain was ready to go to arbitration was, "whether in the matters connected with the vessels out of whose depredations the claims of American citizens have arisen, the course pursued by the British Government and by those who acted upon its authority was such as would involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British Government to make good, either in whole or in part, the losses of American citizens." It is most desirable that there should be no misunderstanding on this point; but, inasmuch as Mr. Seward says that the Government of the United States cannot give any preference to the Alabama claims over others in regard to the form of arbitration suggested, you may inform Mr. Seward that there was no intention on the part of her Majesty's Government to give any such preference to the Alabama claims over claims in the like category. That some such misapprehension exists on the part of Mr. Seward may indeed be further deduced from his statement that while the Government of the United States agree that all mutual claims, which arose during the civil war, between citizens and subjects of the two countries, ought to be amicably and speedily adjusted, they must insist that they be adjusted by one and the same tribunal, with like and the same forms, and on principles common to all. Now, the question of disposing of general claims, in contradistinction to the specific claims arising out of the proceedings of the Alabama and vessels of that class, has not hitherto been matter of controversy between the two Governments, but has been mooted in its present shape by her Majesty's Government alone; and there is no such similarity between the two classes of claims as would admit of their being dealt with by the same process. It may be, however, and her Majesty's Government would gladly learn that it was the case, that the Government of the United States agree to waive the question of the alleged premature recognition of belligerent rights, and are satisfied to go to arbitration on the first or Alabama class of claims; provided that all claims whatever, on either side, arising out of the events of the war are equally submitted to arbitration, so "that they may be adjusted by one and the same form of tribunal, with like and the same forms, and on principles common to all." This, however, from the nature of things, is impracticable; the one class, or the specific claims, such as those arising out of the proceedings of the Alabama and such class of vessels depend for their settlement on the solution of what may be called an abstract question—namely, "whether, in the matters connected with the vessels out of whose depredations the claims of American citizens have arisen, the course pursued by the British Government and those who acted under its authority was such as would involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British Government to make good, either in whole or in part, the losses of American citizens;" the other, or general class of claims, admit of no such narrow restriction. The number of claims in this class on either side may be great, the circumstances of each more or less different, and the points involved in them complicated in their nature and bearing; and on these grounds alone it is obvious that they cannot, like those of the Alabama class, be comprised within a single proposition applicable in principle to all, and bringing all within the compass of a single decision of an arbiter. The reply which Mr. Seward will return to your communication of this despatch will, it may be hoped, clear up the obscurity which rests upon the answer received through Mr. Adams to my despatch of March 9. Her Majesty's Government, you will say, abide by their proposals, as set forth in that despatch. Within the limits set forth in that despatch they are prepared to go to arbitration in regard to the Alabama and such like claims, on the condition that simultaneously with the reference of those claims to arbitration, an agreement is entered into between the two Governments for the adjudication of general claims by a mixed commission.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The health of London appears to be somewhat declining, as the number of deaths registered last week are nineteen more than the estimated number, whereas in the previous week they were sixty-five less. There is a slight increase in the mortality from diarrhoea and cholera, the figures for the last seven weeks being—diarrhoea, 170, 196, 217, 189, 200, 196, 226; cholera, 10, 15, 19, 13, 15, 18, 22. The deaths from diarrhoea are almost double the number in the corresponding week of last year, and the mortality from that disease showed an increase in all the large towns, particularly in Manchester, Birmingham, and Salford. The annual rates of mortality in thirteen of the largest towns per 1000 of the population were as follow:—Bristol, 20; Dublin, 21; Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London, 22; Hull, 25; Leeds, 26; Sheffield, 28; Salford, 29; Liverpool, 30; Birmingham and Manchester, 32; and Newcastle-on-Tyne, 40. The variation of the death-rate in some of these places is very remarkable. Thus at Newcastle it was only 22 on July 6, and on the two following weeks 23, while in the last three weeks the numbers were respectively 28, 33, and 40.



MEETING OF THE FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN SOVEREIGNS AT SALZBURG.

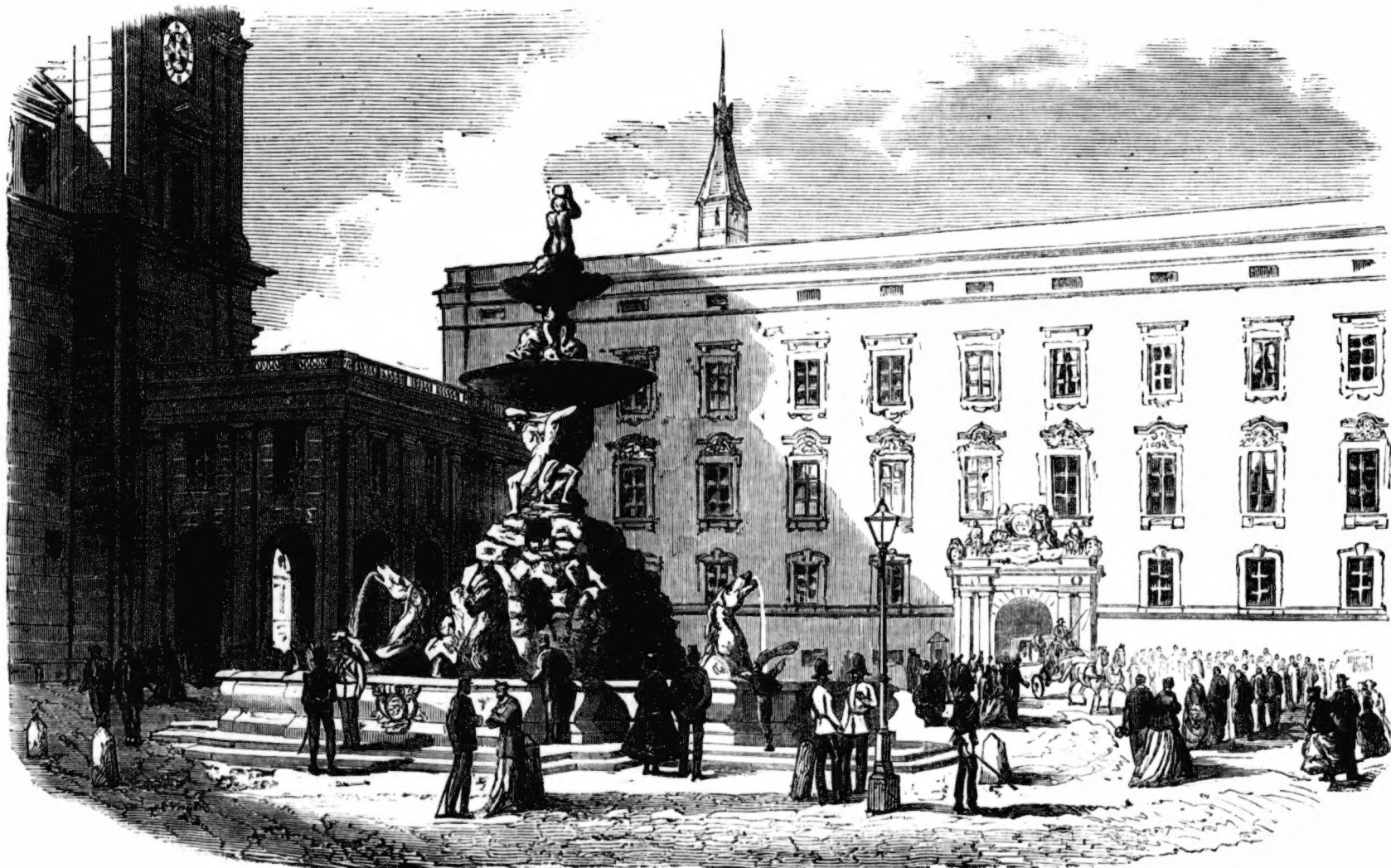
THE IMPERIAL RESIDENCES AT SALZBURG AND HEILBRUNN.

THE Imperial residence at Salzburg, which was devoted to the Emperor and Empress of the French on their recent visit, is one of the finest buildings in that remarkable city, and has long been celebrated on account of the magnificent marble fountain which adorns the square in which it is situated. In fact, this square (the Haupt Platz) and the one adjoining it (the Dom Platz) are the principal open spaces—the former with its grand fountain, 45 ft. high; the

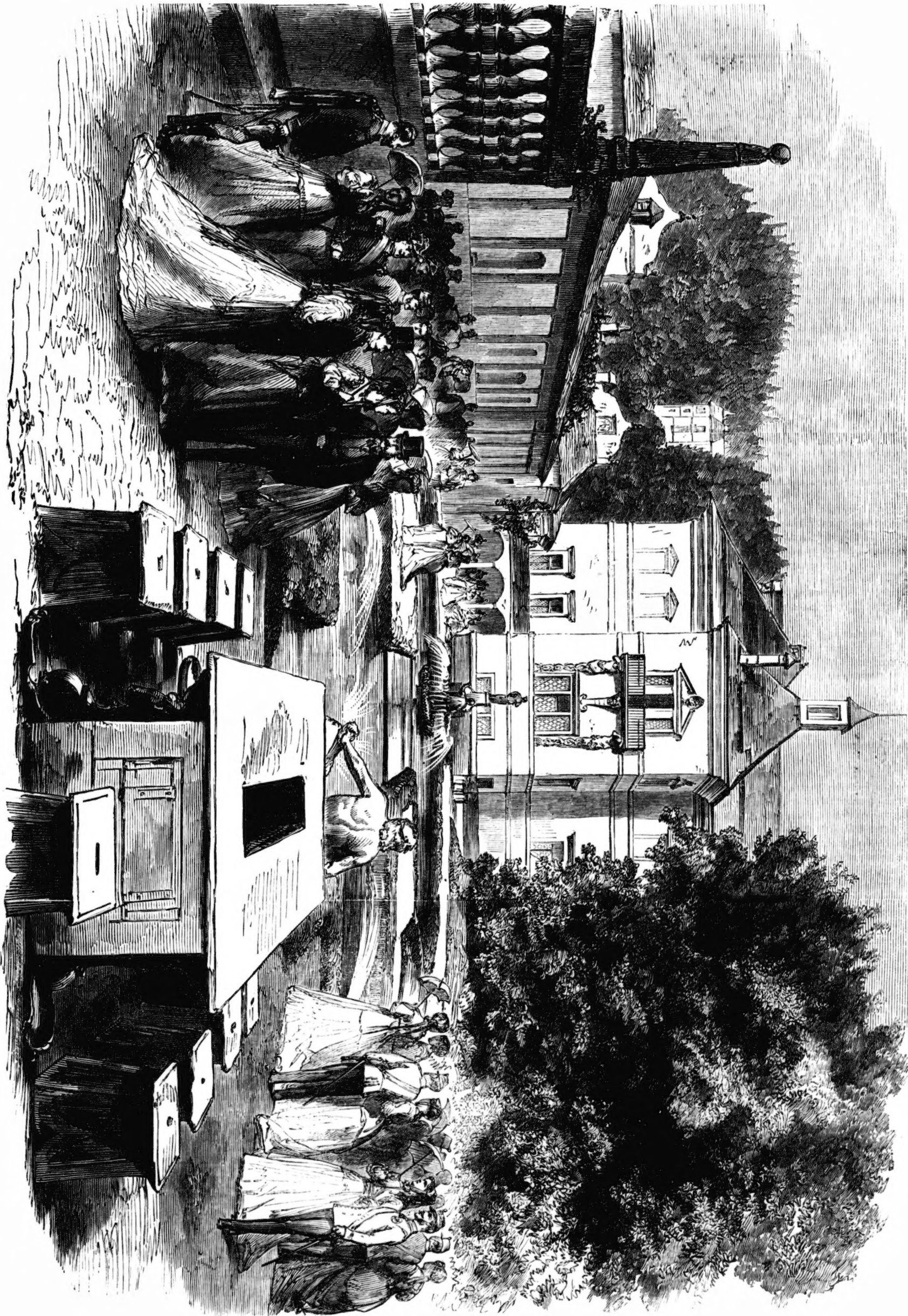
latter with a bronze statue of the Virgin, by Hagenau. Between the two squares stands the cathedral, a heavy Italian structure, 410 ft. long by 250 ft. broad, with a façade of white marble, a dome, and two towers. Adjoining the cathedral is the Archbishop's palace, an extensive edifice, now partly used as public offices.

During the Imperial visit of course an excursion was made to the Imperial summer palace of Heilbrunn; but, in truth, neither palace nor artificial garden can be imposing in a district where the uncultivated beauties of nature are so inexpressibly lovely as they are around Salzburg. It is said to be the most delightful and romantic

place in Germany; and it may well be so, for it would be impossible to conceive of greater variety of scenery, of more picturesque wildness without the bare and repulsive aspect which often belongs to extensive scenery. The whole road from Salzburg to Heilbrunn lies amidst a landscape of the most romantic character, so that the little Imperial château, situated in a charming valley, with its pretty gardens and system of waterworks—whence, probably, its name—make but a poor figure, even on the occasion of a fête such as that which welcomed the French Emperor and kept the Imperial party until too late an hour for them to attend the theatre in the evening.



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PORTRAIT OF PROFESSOR FARADAY.

IN consequence of not being able to get our Portrait of the late Professor Faraday engraved to our satisfaction in time for this week's issue, we have been compelled to postpone its publication. It shall appear in our next Number.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1867.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

On Monday the fortress of Luxemburg will be evacuated, and a portion of the fortifications blown up. On that same day, significantly enough, a peace congress is to be held at Geneva. With the explosion of the last mine beneath the Luxemburg forts there will be an end, it may be presumed to the Luxemburg "question," which, six months ago, threatened to involve all Europe in war. But whether with the meeting of the peace congress we shall make even a step forwards in the way of universal peace is a question of a very different kind. The essential difference between the congress about to meet at Geneva and the Conference which met last May in London, is that the latter had a basis, while the former will have none. If Victor Hugo, Garibaldi, Louis Blanc, and the other friends of democracy and peace now assembled at Geneva, mean only to inveigh against the horrors of war, and to point out that peace brings plenty and war famine, they will, no doubt, find many things to say, and, being eloquent men, will find many persons to listen to them. They may deliver instructive addresses; but though their teaching may have an elevating effect on public opinion, it will not, we are afraid, induce either governments or nations to abandon claims which they have the power to enforce; and if it does not do this it really does nothing. The first question to be discussed is "Whether the reign of peace to which humanity aspires as the latest development of civilisation is compatible with those great military monarchies which rob the people of their most vital liberties, maintain formidable armies, and tend to suppress small States for the benefit of despotic centralisations?" This question will, no doubt, be answered in the negative; and it is equally certain that an affirmative response will be given to the inquiry whether the essential condition of peace among nations is not "liberty for each people, and in their international relations the establishment of a confederation of free democracies, constituting the united States of Europe."

These are mere theorems; but the presidents of the congress are not so impractical as to be contented with simply "proving" them in the abstract. They go on, logically enough, to consider how the great truths, once accepted, can be acted upon. "What are the means," they ask, "of preparing and hastening the accomplishment of this confederation of free States?" Here, indeed, is the difficulty; but the solution is forthcoming. The wished-for means are "a return to the great principles of the Revolution; the vindication of all liberties, individual and political; an appeal to all the moral energies and to conscience; the diffusion of popular education; the destruction of prejudices of race, of nationality, of sect, of military spirit, &c.; the abolition of all standing armies; the harmonising of economical interests with liberty; and the agreement of policy with morality."

The "great principles of the Revolution" were surely returned to by the French in 1848, and the natural consequence of this was that the principles of the Empire were returned to very soon afterwards. The pursuit of liberty, individual and political, is an intelligible idea enough; but what is meant by "an appeal to all the moral energies and to conscience" is by no means clear: at least, it is not easy to understand how such an appeal is to be made. The "diffusion of popular education" is a good thing in itself, whatever it may lead to. In Germany, however, the diffusion of popular education had a great effect in promoting the desire for German unity, which had again a great effect in bringing about the Schleswig-Holstein and Prusso-Austrian wars. The diffusion of popular education produced similar results in Italy, and it may be expected some day to operate in the same manner in Poland. As to "the destruction of prejudices of race, of nationality, of sect," &c., it is surprising that the Democrats, of all parties in the world, should think of advocating such a thing. In the Tyrol, for instance, where Italians and Germans are found together, the Germans object to living under an Italian, the Italians to living under a German Government. If Garibaldi were influenced by no prejudices of race or of nationality, he would care nothing whether the Italians, so long as they were ruled justly, were ruled by a national Government or by foreigners. "Prejudices of race, of nationality, and of sect" are certainly to be condemned; but it would be difficult to do so without at the same time condemning half the popular movements that have taken place of late years. We may be told that, if each nation were restricted to its own territory, no such

difficulty would exist; but this is really an impossibility, and it is fortunate that such is the case. If all the Germans lived on one side of a river and all the French on the other, the animosity between French and Germans, and consequently the chance of France and Germany going to war, would be much greater than it is at present, when there is a large border-land on the edge of each country in which the two races learn to understand one another. The "abolition of standing armies" is recognised by men of all parties as a measure eminently conducive to the peace of the world. Combats between individuals ceased in proportion as the custom of carrying arms went out of fashion; and if nations no longer supported armies, they also, for the best reason in the world, would avoid fighting. But the great trouble in this matter is, of course, to find out who will begin. The French, according to a well-known anecdote, desired the English to fire first at the Battle of Fontenoy; and they, undoubtedly, would call upon us to disarm first if the question of disarming were once seriously raised.

The best means of rendering the action of the International Congress permanent and effective is, according to the third point in the Genevese programme, "the organisation of permanent associations of friends of democracy and liberty." This is a reasonable proposition enough; and the one great object to which the energies of these associations should be directed is, in our opinion, the abolition of standing armies. Standing armies are dangerous to liberty at home, dangerous to peace abroad, and ruinous to the countries that have to support them. If the International Peace Congress, or the associations to be established under its auspices, would familiarise the public, in all countries of Europe, with the simple, excellent arguments that may be used against the maintenance of standing armies, that in itself would be a good practical result.

THE PEACE CONGRESS AT GENEVA.—The following are the three questions proposed for discussion by the International Peace Congress, which will open on the 9th inst. at Geneva. First—"Is the reign of peace, to which humanity aspires as the latest development of civilisation, compatible with these great military monarchies which rob the peoples of their most vital liberties, maintain formidable armies, and tend to suppress small States for the benefit of despotic centralisations? or, is not rather the essential condition of perpetual peace between nations liberty for each people, and in their international relations the establishment of a confederation of free democracies constituting the United States of Europe?" Second—"What are the means for preparing and hastening the accomplishment of this confederation of free States?" A return to the great principles of the revolution, now at last becoming truths; the vindication of all liberties, individual and political; an appeal to all the moral energies and to conscience; the diffusion of popular education; the destruction of prejudices of race, of nationality, of sect, of military spirit; the abolition of standing armies; the harmonising of economic interests with liberty; the agreement of policy with morality." Third—"What would be the best means of rendering the action of the International Congress permanent and effective? The organisation of a permanent association of the friends of democracy and of liberty."

THE LIGHTING OF HYDE PARK.—The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have effected an improvement in Hyde Park which will be heartily welcomed by the public. Along all the main roads, with the exception of the road from the Marble Arch to Notting-hill, powerful lamps, with so-called reflectors, have been placed; the pillars, massive in design and of excellent proportion, and the lanterns of a new and elegant pattern. The great advantage of such an important step in park management is so obvious that the pedestrian, whose avocations oblige him to cross what is at present nothing more than a desolate plain, with unpleasant and often dangerous adventures, probably, during his expedition, will naturally desire an extension of the boon to the main walks and some other parts of the park. It is suggested that lime lights might be erected at two or three stations sufficient to illuminate the larger portion of the entire area; and it is not too much to hope that the improvement may be extended to the several parks under the control of the Commissioners, and that it may stimulate improved lighting in open spaces, subject to the regulation of the local authorities. The work has been executed with much dispatch by the contractors (Messrs. Comyn, Ching, and Co.); but it is understood that the lighting is delayed by the difficulty of arranging the gas supply with the companies. A novel mode of lighting is to be adopted by an electric apparatus fixed in the base of the pillar, thus avoiding the cumbersome operations of the lamp-lighter with ladder and lantern.

OPENING OF THE OAKS COLLIERY.—After a somewhat slow and tedious process an opening has at last been made from the bottom of the No. 1 shaft of the Oaks Colliery, and on Saturday a new cage was fixed, in which several men went down. Signal-wires were also attached from the top, which worked very freely, so that the work of ascending and descending is just as easy as before the accident. It was stated by those who went down, and who could get through a few inches from the opening, that in peering into the darkness, the gas coming out too strong for the lamps, there was no appearance whatever of fire. For the purpose of entering the workings and going through the gas, it has been determined to send men down attired in a sort of diving-bell dress. Last Saturday afternoon several of the dresses were put on, with a view to the men getting accustomed to their use. They consist of a waterproof head-piece and dress descending to the waist, with thick glass circles for the eyes. At the breast a tube is fixed for the purpose of receiving the air, which will be forced from an air-pump into the shaft, while an escape-pipe is placed at the top of the head. With these dresses on the men will be able, it is expected, to pass through the gas, recover any bodies that may be met with, and examine the workings to some distance. In the event also, of there being any smouldering fire near the bottom, or as far as the men can proceed, they will be able to give material aid in extinguishing it either by directing the engine-hose or by the ordinary means.

THE LAW ON MASTER AND SERVANT.—In the new Act to amend the law as between master and servant there are twenty-six sections, carrying out the declaration of the preamble as to the expediency of altering "in some respects the existing enactments relative to the determination of questions arising between employers and employed under contracts of service." After a definition of the expressions used, in which the term "employed" is to include persons under age, there is a limitation and substitution for existing enactments contained in the first schedule annexed. Either side, employer or employed, can make complaint before a magistrate, and a summons be obtained, and, in the event of non-attendance, a warrant to follow; and, where there is an intention to abscond, security can be required for the appearance. Compensation may be awarded for breach or non-performance, or a fine not exceeding £20 may be imposed, and security may be required for the fulfilment of the contract. The money ordered may be recovered by distress, and, in default of payment, with imprisonment not exceeding three months, without hard labour. There is a provision in this Act for "aggravated misconduct" contained in the following words:—"Where, on the hearing of an information or complaint under this Act, it appears to the justices, magistrate, or sheriff that any injury inflicted on the person or property of the party complaining, or the misconduct, misdemeanor, or ill-treatment complained of, has been of an aggravated character, and that such injury, misconduct, misdemeanor, or ill-treatment has not arisen or been committed in the bona fide exercise of a legal right existing, or bona fide and reasonably supposed to exist; and, further, that any pecuniary compensation or other remedy by this Act provided will not meet the circumstances of the case, then the justices, magistrate, or sheriff may, by warrant, commit the party complained against to the common gaol or house of correction within their or his jurisdiction, there to be (in the discretion of the justices, magistrate, or sheriff) imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding three months." The Act, which extends to the United Kingdom, is not to prevent proceedings by civil actions. It is to continue in force one year from Aug. 20 and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament. In reference to this Act, Lord St. Leonards has sent the subjoined letter to the *Times*:—"As I am withdrawing as much as I can from public life, I thought that I should not have again to request the use of your columns; but the above Act is simply permissive, and not compulsory. Men, as well as masters, therefore, will require a copy of the Act in order to know how to avail themselves of its powers. To supply this want I have, with the kind assistance of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, arranged for the immediate circulation throughout the country of copies of the Act. They will be directed to the Mayors of all the hives of industry for circulation by them—a task I am sure they will willingly perform. I will only add that, although the Act may not stop actual strikes, it will fail in its object if it do not prevent strikes."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE CAPTIVES IN ABYSSINIA, according to intelligence received by the British Embassy at Constantinople, have been liberated by the Emperor Theodore at the intercession of the Armenian Bishop Isaac.

HER MAJESTY has been pleased to grant the dignity of knighthood to John Brown of Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, and to Joseph N. McKenna, of Ardo House, in the county of Waterford.

THE EARL OF DERBY has consented to lay the foundation-stone of the New Southern Hospital, Liverpool, early in the ensuing month.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has granted to Baron von Beust precedence over all Court officials, with the exception of the First Grand Chamberlain.

LORD BROUGHAM still maintains his health, and takes a carriage drive or an airing on the lawn at Brougham Hall daily, according to the state of the weather.

THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT'S Vanban has won during the present season £13,425 10s.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT has not, as has been stated, been requested to procure camels for the Abyssinian expedition. He has only been asked to facilitate the purchases of our officers who have been dispatched to Egypt for the purpose.

M. DANO, the French Minister in Mexico, has arrived in New York.

SEVENTY NATIVE CHRISTIANS are reported to be imprisoned at Nagasaki on account of their religion.

GARIBALDI, Victor Hugo, and Louis Blanc have arrived in Geneva to take part in the Peace Conference there.

THE MISSION OF SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE to Roumania, in behalf of his persecuted co-religionists in Roumania, has been completely successful.

MRS. (LONGWORTH) YELVERTON was amongst the passengers who sailed from Liverpool, on Saturday last, in the Washington, for New York. Her object in visiting the United States is to give a series of readings.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between the Hon. A. Hanbury-Tracy, brother to Lord Sudeley, and Miss Hoare, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Henry Hoare, of Morden, Surrey.

LIEUTENANT BRAND, R.N., of Morant Bay notoriety, has, it seems, been appointed to the Irresistible screw coastguard-ship at Southampton for service in tender.

FRANKFORD CATHEDRAL, or "Dome Kirk," was recently destroyed by fire, and a committee has been formed to promote its reconstruction.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has contracted with the establishment of Mr. Colt, New York, for the supply within two years of 100,000 breech-loading rifles.

THE HEALTH OF MR. CHARLES KEAN has of late so greatly improved that he may probably be able soon to give readings, though it is doubtful whether the healthful breezes of the Cornish and Devonshire coasts will so far renew his strength as to enable him to reappear on the stage.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS, who has recently been reported to be in infirm health, writes to say that the statement is wholly destitute of foundation, and that he was never better in his life.

STEPHENS, the late Fenian head centre, is residing in Paris, in seemingly distressed circumstances.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL-HOUSE OF TRAINBOY, in a lonely mountain district, near Raphoe, in the county of Donegal, has been maliciously set on fire and entirely destroyed, with everything it contained. It is difficult to account for this outrage, as the patron of the school is popular.

M. DELEAUX, an inhabitant of Bordeaux, writes that he has, after several years' experiments, discovered the means of directing balloons in the air, and consequently of rendering the intercourse between nations more intimate and more rapid.

THE IRISH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRELATES have considered and repudiated Earl Russell's proposal for the division of the revenues of the Established Church between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

A MEETING OF BOILER-MAKERS AND IRON SHIPBUILDERS has been held in Glasgow, to form a new national association for that trade. The new society deprecates strikes, will not grant any of its funds to support workmen who are out on strike, and intends to afford a healthy development of the friendly-society principle.

THE SALE OF HORSEFLESH, as well as that of mules and asses, for human food, has just been legalised at Lyons by a decree of the Prefect.

THE DEMOLITION OF MIDDLE-ROW, HOLBOEN, commenced last Saturday, and in a short time the block of buildings will be removed, and a long-needed metropolitan improvement effected in the neighbourhood. The closing of the shops and the hoarding placed round the block have already considerably altered the aspect of the locality.

A TERRIBLE FIRE has broken out in one of the Crown forests near Ajaccio, Corsica. From the sea it presents the spectacle of a sort of mountain of fire. The flames are devouring a space of several leagues. Sailors and troops are hastening to the spot to afford help.

AT NEWTON-ON-AVR, recently, a man and woman were solemnly married, without the slightest suspicion of the deception, by a layman, who, acting with others, had thought it a good hoax. The contracting parties, however, thought differently, and trouble is likely to arise.

THE ANNUAL WELSH ELSTEDFODD has been held this week at Carmarthen, and has been well attended.

THE KING OF ITALY has ordered that a medal shall be struck in bronze, silver, and gold, to be conferred on such persons as shall have rendered signal services during the prevalence of cholera or any other grave epidemic. It will have on one side the head of the King, and on the other a crown of oak, with a legend importing that it is a recompense for services in connection with public health.

DOGS not under the control of any person may be taken up by the police on and after Nov. 1 next, and if not owned in three days destroyed. The owners of dogs may be ordered to muzzle them, and if a dog has been bitten, or attempted to bite, any person, a magistrate may order the animal to be destroyed.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE CHOICEST KINDS OF GRAPES has become very general in Guernsey as well as in Jersey. A very few years since not above six cwt. were exported to England from Guernsey in the course of a year. Last year there were as many tons. The yield this year for exportation will, it is expected, be about ten tons.

COUNTESS DANNER, the relict of the late King of Denmark, is said to be at present engaged on a very benevolent mission, that of training children for domestic service, and that she has turned her palace, called Jagerspris, into a complete asylum for children of from two to four years of age, whom she will feed, clothe, lodge, and train up until they are of age to maintain themselves.

AN ACCIDENT of a remarkable kind occurred, last Saturday morning, at the farm of Havering-atte-Bower, near Romford. While fourteen men sat on the ground eating their lunch, two horses, which were harnessed to a wagon laden with sheaves of wheat, took fright, and dashed upon the men. Seven were run over, and most of them had either legs or arms broken, or suffered severely in other ways.

LACARTIJO, a famous Spanish bullfighter, has fallen a victim to the dangers of his occupation. At a display recently held at Puente-Genil, he had skillfully gone through the whole performance of goading the animal to fury, and then finishing him, Lagartijo thought, by a fine thrust of the sword. The torero turned to receive the applause of the spectators, when the bull, by a final effort, suddenly rose and drove his horn into the man's shoulder, killing him on the spot.

PREPARATIONS are being made at Hughenden, Bucks, to present an address to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer from the churchwardens, farmers, and other inhabitants of that place, congratulating Mr. Disraeli on the passing of the Reform Bill. It is also intended to invite Mr. E. K. Karslake, M.P., who is on a visit to his constituents at Colchester, to a dinner celebrating the same event.

ALTHOUGH PARTRIDGE-SHOOTING did not legally commence till Monday morning, partridges were plentifully exhibited in London for sale before ten o'clock. These importations are partly the product of the poachers' nets at night, which clear off coveys of partridges wholesale. Birds are full grown and in good condition; and plump partridges were sold at 6s. to 7s. per brace, and small and late-hatched birds at 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per brace.

SOME CONSTERNATION has been caused by what seems to be a resumption of stack firing in the Wold district. On Tuesday night week a "tramp," or "woldranger," called at a farmhouse at Dunnington, and was offered bread, which he rejected in a most impudent manner. A few minutes afterwards a haystack was found on fire, and only ten tons or so were saved.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has consented to take command at a review of volunteers to be held in Sefton Park, Liverpool, on Oct. 5. The park, which is in course of formation, is over 400 acres in extent, is two miles from Liverpool, and is approached by several lines of railway which run close to the ground. It is anticipated that 20,000 or 30,000 volunteers will be present from Lancashire and other counties.

A WOMAN NAMED KIDDER has been committed for trial on the charge of having wilfully murdered her step-daughter, aged eleven years, at New Romney, in the Weald of Kent, by drowning her. The evidence disclosed a shocking history of continued and brutal ill-treatment, which at last culminated in the commission of murder. The prisoner denies her guilt, and affirms that the child fell accidentally into the water.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SHEFFIELD FILEMAKERS ASSOCIATION has received a letter threatening him, almost in plain terms, with death, if he does not prevent his associates from taking too many apprentices. The writer declares the practice "as bad as playing with weighted dice," and adds of his own accord this definition of murder:—"Lindley was not murdered. Murder is the deliberate taking away the life of a man, woman, or child who does not deserve to lose it. Lindley deserved to lose his."

A LOUNGER IN WALES.

"A LOUNGER in Wales" is my proper title. I do lounge about a good deal here, and find my profit and pleasure in thus lounging, instead of shooting about hither and thither like a distracted swallow, as most of our tourists do. These gentlemen have no fixed abiding-place, no home; they have a certain time to spare, and they think that the way to enjoy themselves is to cover as much ground as they possibly can within that time; and if they knock themselves up, as they often do, and are compelled to lounge about a comparatively small area for a day, they put that down as a blank day—a day in which they have done nothing. I have met with many such people, and have noticed that their talk at night is not about what they have seen, but what they have done. "Seeing" the country seems to be quite secondary to "doing" it. They appear to come here to use their legs rather than their eyes. "I and my friend," said a young tourist to me the other night, "have walked thirty miles to-day." "Well," said I, "and what did you see?" "Oh! you cannot stop to see much, if you are to do thirty miles a day. Besides, it rained almost all the way, and sometimes it was so thick that we could not see a hundred yards ahead; but we did what we meant to do—we went over Snowdon, and over Moel Siabod." I met with a tourist the other day who told me that he had been up Snowdon ten times, and seen nothing. But, then, think of being able to say, "Been up Snowdon! yes I have been up Snowdon ten times." I think it was Sydney Smith who, in answer to a tourist who said that he wanted to climb a mountain because he wished to be able to say that he had done it, replied, "Can't you say so without doing it?" Of course one would not recommend anybody to follow this whimsical suggestion; yet it appears to me that to undertake a journey up Snowdon when you may know beforehand that you can see nothing from the top, merely that you may boast that you have climbed the mountain, is extremely foolish; and as to the exercise, one would think that it is very much like the exercise of a treadmill, plus fresh air. These are the pedestrian tourists; another class shoots along the high roads on the tops of coaches or in cars; and in this way you may career over the whole of North Wales in a week, and, of course, see a great deal in that time; all, indeed, of the wayside scenery—and very beautiful is that wayside scenery: Vale of Conway, passes of Nantfrancon and Llanberis, Snowdon, Moel Siabod, Llewellyn, Carnedd, David, &c. No ride in Great Britain can be more beautiful—that is to say, if the weather be fine. If it be wet, as it often is, or misty, as it oftener is, of course you see little or nothing. But, given fine weather, there is this serious objection to rapid careering through the country in this way—you see much, but remember little or nothing. One of the most delightful effects of lounging through such a country as this is the impressing pictures upon the mind so fixedly that you can look at them with the mind's eye afterwards, when in quite other scenes. It is by so doing that a thing of beauty does really become a joy for ever; but if you shoot through a country, though you see much you retain nothing definite. The picture, when you attempt to reproduce it, is all muddled and blurred. Would it not be better to see less and remember more? What we call touring is very much like reading. There are men who run over a vast quantity of books—there are others who read slowly a few. The latter are the best-informed men. Fast tourists run over the country—they do not read it.

My practice is very different to that of either of the classes I have named. Be my time never so short I must have a home, and, having fixed upon this, I lounge over a radius larger or smaller, according to my time, not confining my wanderings to the high roads, but mounting the hills, penetrating the dales, threading the passes, and wandering along the courses of the rivers, not hurriedly, to get to some given point, but, taking no note of distance or time, I lounge along at my ease; sometimes mounting a lofty height, to get an extensive view; anon, dropping down into a lovely ravine, or deviating from my course to catch a sight of a waterfall; or, squatting on a rock, saturate my whole being with the beauty of a wide, extended, undulating heath, all carpeted with heather in full bloom. One of the most glorious pictures this that prolific Nature ever painted! Such a scene in the evening sunlight, when the heather seems all ablaze with crimson fire, mocks at all our artists, and defies all poetic genius to describe.

This, then, is my method; and, by following it, what beauties have I not seen during the last ten days! And here let me say I have no guide, or none that I use. "Black's Guide to North Wales" is the only book known here; and that, except to the hurrying, scurrying tourists aforesaid, is not worth a farthing; and the map therein is equally worthless. The author of this book may have gone the usual round, but into the interior he never penetrated. There is a small guide to the lake district, entitled "A Pedestrian's Guide, by a Cambridge Man," which, to my mind, is perfect. This covers all the country, and it is, as far as I have tested it, entirely trustworthy; and yet it is but a small book, and the cost of it is only 1s. The only map of North Wales worth anything is the Ordnance map, two sheets of which, costing 6d. a sheet, include by far the greater part of the grand scenery of the country. Black's map is wrong in more than one instance. For example, it names Llyn Cowlid Gerionedd, and Geryonedd Cowlid; and another map which I saw in the hands of a tourist, for which he had given 4s. 6d., omits Geryonedd—one of the most beautiful lakes in Wales—altogether. In short, the only maps by which you can travel off the highways are the Ordnance maps. I have tested them in Westmorland, Cumberland, Wales, and other districts, and never knew them fail. This by the way; it will, perhaps, though, prove the most valuable part of this communication.

You must know that I am not alone here—alone! no, indeed! lounging alone through such a country as this would not be at all to my taste. I like to see, not only with my own, but other eyes. Moreover, be it known, if you have not yet discovered it, that all the finer pleasures of the soul are mysteriously intensified by companionship. The thrill of my friend's spirit, whilst gazing at a glorious landscape, passes like electricity into my spirit and mine into his, and that albeit not a word be spoken. One day last week my party and I lounged up to the Conway Falls; but, as these are close to the road to Shrewsbury, through the vale of Llangollen—old mail road from Shrewsbury to Holyhead, made by Lillford, I think—they are one of the stock sights; and of them I shall say nothing more than this, that they, though only hinted at in Black's Guide, are, with the scenery in which they are framed, exceedingly grand and beautiful; and about them we lounged and loitered a long while. But afterwards we wandered further, through the fields, along the banks of the meandering Machno, a tributary of the Conway, into which it tumbles just below the falls, till we came to a mill, quite away from the highway, and so concealed that you might pass it a hundred times and not discover it. And yet, at this spot there is one of the loveliest "bits" of scenery, as artists say, that eye ever saw, or fancy imagined. It is a fall of the Machno down some fifty feet into a ravine, the rocky walls on each side, or in the bed of the river, or worn by the rush of waters, or exploded, for aught we know, into the most fantastic shapes, and covered with a beautiful embroidery of heath and gorse, all in full bloom, intermingled with mosses and lichens of every imaginable hue, and all over-arched with trees springing not only from the banks above, but from every available ledge of rock on the walls, specially that most beautiful of all trees at this time of year, the mountain-ash, loaded with red berries. This tree is fond of waterfalls. Wherever there is a waterfall the mountain-ash may generally be seen, drooping its branches and turning towards the fall, as if it liked to drink in the spray. Fancy all this, with the bright sun's rays quivering through the canopy of leaves and flashing on the waters below! And fancy your Lounger, seated on a projecting rock, looking now frontwards to the cataract of foaming waters split into three or four separate torrents; and then downwards into the deep cavern below; and anon upwards to the umbrageous canopy, taking in the while the gorgeous tapestry of the walls! On the bank of this fall there is a flour-mill, with its huge overshot wheel. This, you would imagine, would detract from the beauty of the picture. And so it would if it were

new; but it is very ancient, and is itself fantastic and gnarled in shape, and almost covered with lichens. We lounged here for a long time, and would have stopped much longer, but inexorable appetite pointed homewards, and would endure no further delay; and so, reluctantly, we departed at last. And now, reader, remember this: tourists of the swift-darting kind never see this beautiful gem; it is off the road. No guide-book that I have seen mentions it. It is only discoverable by the Lounger tribe.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Everybody knows by this time that a new shilling magazine is about to be issued, under the editorship of Mr. Anthony Trollope, who will begin a new novel in the first number. Speaking "in the abstract," as the Scotch girl did of love, it is not easy to write as Mr. Trollope writes; he is one by himself; but assuredly the ordinary clever novel of society must be a very easy thing to produce. Yet who can withhold an expression of surprise at the fertility of writers like Mr. Edmund Yates, Miss Braddon, and Miss Thomas?

In the current number of *Blackwood* there is an article vaguely headed "Novels," in which an attempt is made to do justice upon all four of the writers I have just named, and one or two others. But the paper is superficial, and is not, after all, as just as it appears or assumes to be. It is, however, worth reading, as material for thought. Exactly the same remarks apply to the essay on "Egoism"; it is superficial, but suggestive.

In the *Cornhill* the pleasant series of papers entitled "The Knapsack in Spain" is concluded. The two essays, "The Rationale of Recreation" and "Time," are not up to the mark. It is often necessary to write commonplace or obvious things—necessary, I mean, to completeness of treatment; but they should seldom be said without an acknowledgment that they are what they are. The rest of the number is as good as it usually is. "Stone Edge" appears to be concluded, for which very many readers will be sorry. We could well have borne some more of it.

On the whole, *Macmillan's* is the most interesting of the magazines thus far. In "Old Sir Douglas" Mrs. Norton has prepared a most dramatic surprise for us; but I am astonished that so true an artist should commit the gross blunder which is perpetrated on page 401, where a foot-note informs the reader that something referred to in the text is "a fact." This is rudely and unnecessarily to remind one that the remainder of the text is not fact but fiction. Of course, we presume it is; but what can be worse art than to tell us of it? Everything written by Mr. Alexander Bain is deserving of attention; but his article "On the Correlation of Force in its Bearing on Mind" is, after all, only one more amusing specimen of what "the Ganglion School" (so happily nicknamed by the *Spectator*) are pleased to call their psychology. In Mr. Bain's article we have, stated in terms of physiology, nothing but a few common-sense matters which Franklin would have put in five or ten sentences, without any aid from "the ganglion school" whatever. The article on "Personal Statistics" is a useful one. It is quite obvious, as is now once more pointed out, that the ordinary figures on which people rely for proof that married men live longest and most healthily, are of only limited value; because the married lives are selected lives, to begin with. I may observe, in case the author of the article should see these lines, that the figures of Mr. Vacher upon another question are of uncertain value until we can determine in what proportion a certain deviation from social order is attended by the precise consequence which makes it impossible to dissemble the fact. In cases where there is education or good general knowledge on one side, there is no doubt the fact does not "transpire" by such a consequence as would bring it within the scope of Mr. Vacher's figures.

In *Belgravia* there is a real live political paper! The "Norman Watering-place" is very amusing; and so is "Camp Life at Wimbledon." That odd, wild story, "Circe," is concluded. It has a certain force and fire of its own; and if "Babington White," the author, can restrain his extravagances of expression, and forget his bad models, he may do much better some day.

Tinsley's contains one very happy paper, bearing the imperfectly descriptive title "Our Lake Land." If you take *Tinsley's*, be sure and look at it. What a comfort it is to read, from "Aunt Anastasia," the following deliverance on the marriage service which happens to have been compiled for the Prayer-book of the Establishment:—"It appears to me that in this instance the compilers of the Prayer-book have put God Almighty's ideas about marriage into intelligible words." Not long ago a reviewer informed us that a certain book then just published gave "an accurate description of the sufferings of the lost." Aunt Anastasia's notion of putting the "ideas" of the Supreme Being into "intelligible language" is nearly as good. In fashion-plates and fashion-writing *Tinsley's* appears to me unsurpassed. Let Miss Braddon look to it!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Miss Kate Terry has taken her final leave of the London stage, to the desolation of Mr. Tom Taylor, who (I am told) intends never to enter a theatre again. Her performance of Juliet, imperilled as it was by the fulsome nonsense that was written about it and by the detestable manner in which the piece was placed upon the stage, was nevertheless a genuine success, and, indeed, almost a triumph for the excellent young actress. She was not as completely at home in Juliet as she was in Ethel, in the preposterous piece of that name, or in the many domestic characters with which her name is principally associated; but it was a delicate, refined, and lady-like performance notwithstanding, and in the dearth of fitting Juliets, proved to us, if proof were wanted, how much we lose in losing Miss Terry.

Mrs. Scott Siddons has come back to the Haymarket to win more hearts and delight more audiences by her charming performance of Rosalind. I wish that somebody would come back to town, for then this pretty lady will play Juliet, and I shall be able to see whether I am correct in my prophecy that London has not yet seen half Mrs. Siddons can do. For the rest, "As You Like It" was played in the good old Haymarket style, and afforded intense satisfaction to the good old Haymarket play-goers. Mr. Vining has made a plucky attempt to catch the fevered Londoners yet once more with the time-worn "Streets of London." There is no need for me to say anything more about it, for I have no intention of boring anyone.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul are appearing at the STRAND in "Ripples on the Lake," followed by a medley entertainment of no fixed nature, in the course of which Mrs. Howard Paul sings "The Ship on Fire," and Mr. Howard Paul gives a lyrical version of "Faust," called "Faust in Five Minutes," which he does with amusing effect, and sings a clever song, "The Twins," which, however, was sung long since by Mr. Arthur Sketchley. This, I think, should be admitted by Mr. Paul, as also the name of the author, Mr. Henry Leigh.

Mr. Maccabe (who modestly styles himself "the Great") appeared at the EGYPTIAN HALL last week in his entertainment, "Begone Dull Care." I did not notice any novelty in it, so I content myself with recording the fact of his reappearance.

Mr. Vining opened the PRINCESS'S, with "The Streets of London," last Monday, and Mr. Watts Phillips has a drama, "Nobody's Child," at the SURREY, on Saturday next.

IMPRISONED IN A COAL-PIT.—An alarming accident took place at the Astley's Delf pit, Dukinfield, last week, 160 men and boys being imprisoned in the pit until Saturday evening. The pit is worked by two relays of men, the men working eight hours each. One set of men commence work at three o'clock in the afternoon and leave at eleven at night, and the second set commence at eight o'clock at night, and leave at four o'clock in the morning. About half-past nine o'clock on Friday evening, as the engineer was winding up a cage with four tubs of coal upon it, the rope suddenly snapped between the head stocks and the engine-house, and the bottom of the shaft was blocked up. The pit is 686½ yards in depth. The men were released by what is called the Town-lane shaft, but not without great exertions, and not until between six and seven o'clock on Saturday evening. Food was forwarded to the men by a wire down the Town-lane shaft. Happily, no one received any injury.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE funeral of the late Duke of Northumberland took place, on Friday week, at Westminster Abbey. The ceremony was, in obedience to the wish of the deceased nobleman, of a simple character. The service was impressively read by the Rev. Canon Hawkins, D.D. Along the route of the procession from Northumberland House but few persons had assembled, but within the Abbey there was a large concourse of mourners and sympathetic spectators.

Naturally, more pomp attended the obsequies of the late Duke at Alnwick, the ancestral seat of the Percys. On the day the body was removed from Alnwick Castle to London, the general sympathy manifested itself by unmistakable tokens. The town was in mourning. All the shops were closed; and from an early hour the tolling of the muffled bells sounded slow and heavy through the dense air. Nearly all the street passengers were attired in mourning apparel. Presently the numerous tenantry of his Grace and the country batteries of the Percy Artillery, arriving in successive throngs, came pouring into the town from every quarter. Nine o'clock was the hour when the long procession that was to follow the remains of the departed Duke to the station began to assemble. The household took their station at the front door. The officials and persons in the Duke's pay assembled under the Warder's Tower, extending along the Barneyside Drive. The clergy, in their gowns, and the general mourners, gathered in the Guest Hall. The militia staff, the No. 1 battery of the Percy Artillery, and the Rennington half-battery, were drawn up in the Inner Ward, with the militia and volunteer bands, and the horse artillery, between the Inner and Middle Gate; and the remaining batteries with the rifles in the Outer Ward, the right of No. 2 battery resting on the Middle Gate, and the left of the rifles on the Barbican. The whole were drawn up in open order, double distance. The tenantry were assembled on horseback in Bailiff Gate, and the carriages of the gentry extended along Rotten-row.

It was near ten o'clock when the coffin was brought out and placed in the hearse. When it appeared the whole force presented arms, and on its being deposited in the hearse they reversed arms preparatory to moving off. The troops in the inner ward then closed upon the right of No. 2 battery, the horse artillery fell in between No. 1 battery and the militia, while the band remained in front of the hearse; the whole force then marched out of the castle into the open ground in front. The ranks were arranged four paces apart, so that a lane was left between them. The horse artillery took their place at the head of the procession; next came the 5th Northumberland Rifle Corps, with the riflemen from Newcastle and other places, who, having come for the purpose of attending the county association meeting, now joined in this mark of respect to the deceased peer; the six garrison batteries of the Percy Artillery followed. Meanwhile, the hearse, having received its mournful freight, moved out of the inner court and over the drawbridge, preceded by the united bands of the Northumberland Militia and Percy Artillery Volunteers, and followed by the chief mourners and household. On arriving at the road which leads to the Warder's Tower, the procession was joined by the train of castle officials, agents, bailiffs, heads of departments, and other gentlemen in the employment of the Duke; and a little after it was further swelled by the clergy, robed in their gowns, and by the general mourners, who moved from the Guest Hall, where they had assembled, and, proceeding along the pavement by the offices, followed in the rear of the officials. The procession thence moved slowly through the Barbican. At the end of Bailiffgate it was joined by the mounted tenantry; and the whole array was closed by the private carriages.

At the moment the procession moved a detachment of artillery volunteers, placed in Barneyside, began to fire minute guns. They continued to fire until the number had reached to eighty-nine, the age of his Grace when he died. The multitude assembled clustered thickly along the pavement of Narrowgate, and still more thickly upon Bondgate-hill, and along the road that conducts through Hotspur Tower to the railway station. The strength of the troop of Percy Light Horse Artillery was thirty men. Then followed the gray uniforms of the Alnwick Rifles, whose numbers were swelled by a large party of the riflemen then staying in the town. The whole force of riflemen consisted of 114 men. Close upon the final ranks of the rifle volunteers followed the Percy Artillery Brigade, extending as far as the eye could see, in their beautiful uniforms of mingling blue, white, and red. The late Duke was their Colonel, and they, as well as the other soldiers, wore the usual military mourning of black crape on the right arm. The Northumberland Light Infantry Militia and Percy Artillery Volunteers followed; and when these had passed, then came the hearse, drawn by six "tomb-black steeds," conveying the body of the Duke. Behind the hearse came the late Duke's carriage, and two carriages conveying the chief mourners. The household, the officials, and the employés followed, and then the clergy, amongst whom was conspicuous the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne. When the head of the column had nearly reached the railway station the ranks separated to each side, and on attaining the railway-platform gateway halted and faced inwards, the men resting on their arms reversed. The hearse then passed through the lane of soldiers to the platform. The public were excluded during the whole of the ceremony from the station. When the coffin was removed from the hearse and placed in the railway-carriage of the special train in waiting, the troops presented arms. Earl Percy and the other chief mourners then took their seats in the train, and Countess Percy, Lady Louisa Percy, and Lady Hatherton shortly after drove up and entered one of the compartments. At eleven o'clock the train moved off, bearing to London both the mourned and the mourners.

ACCIDENT AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.

At an early hour last Saturday morning the large caisson at the entrance to the fourth fitting and repairing dock at Chatham dockyard suddenly gave way, without any previous warning, during a more than usually high tide, and the results were exceedingly disastrous. At two o'clock a.m. the tide-gauge had registered a rise of 18 ft. 6 in., a higher tide than had occurred for several weeks previously, and this circumstance might probably have been the cause of the sudden giving way of the caisson. At a few minutes after two, the police-constable on duty, who had just passed over the caisson, heard it give way, followed by a tremendous roar of water, which rushed into the large dock with the noise of a peal of thunder. At the time of the occurrence the dock was occupied by the double-screw steamer Beacon, launched a few weeks previously, which was being fitted for sea. The first wave lifted the Beacon completely off the blocks, as if she had been a boat, carrying her to the head of the dock, and lifted her stern entirely out of the water. The receding waves carried her back again, and threw her on her beam ends against the side of the dock wall. The accident occurred at an hour when the only workmen in the yard were those employed in the metal-mills, who rushed out of the workshop under the belief that a considerable portion of the dock had been carried away. The noise of the water bursting into the dock at the same time aroused the officials residing in the yard. The night being very dark, Mr. Superintendent Strength, who was promptly on the spot with all the available police force at his command, immediately had fires of tar barrels and other combustible materials lighted along the sides of the dock to assist the workmen, while messengers were dispatched from the yard for the officials residing out of the establishment and all the workmen who could be obtained. Signals were also made for the seamen belonging to the ships of the reserve and those of the various ships in harbour, several hundred of whom were soon on the spot to render assistance. As promptly as possible the Beacon was secured, and on the tide receding she was got safely on the blocks and shored up when an examination of the vessel showed that she had been seriously injured. During the whole of Saturday morning a large body of labourers were employed in pumping the water out of the ship, the services of the large steam fire-engine being likewise brought into requisition for the same purpose. The Beacon was removed to Sheerness, and placed in one of the vacant docks at that yard.



FUNERAL OF THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND: THE PROCESSION PASSING ALONG BONDGATE-STREET, ALNWICK, TOWARDS THE HOTSPUR TOWER.

(FROM A SKETCH BY MR. J. R. BROWN, ALNWICK.)

NEW BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

As the works connected with Blackfriars Bridge slowly advance it is found that the very causes which hastened the decay of the old structure are precisely those which are hindering the completion of the new. The scour of the river at this part is very unequal, and,

from its inequality, very severe. The sweep of the down tide on the north bank is trifling compared with that which at this point rushes along the Surrey shore. Thus the deposit of slime and ooze has year by year been added to, foot by foot, on the Middlesex side; while on the Surrey side the foreshore has been swept bare

almost to the shingle. It was this scour, and, therefore, gradual alteration in the depth of the bed of the river, which destroyed the old bridge. The rush on its centre and southern piers was too much for the weak foundation which upheld them; and, though the structure did stand more than a century, nearly half this period



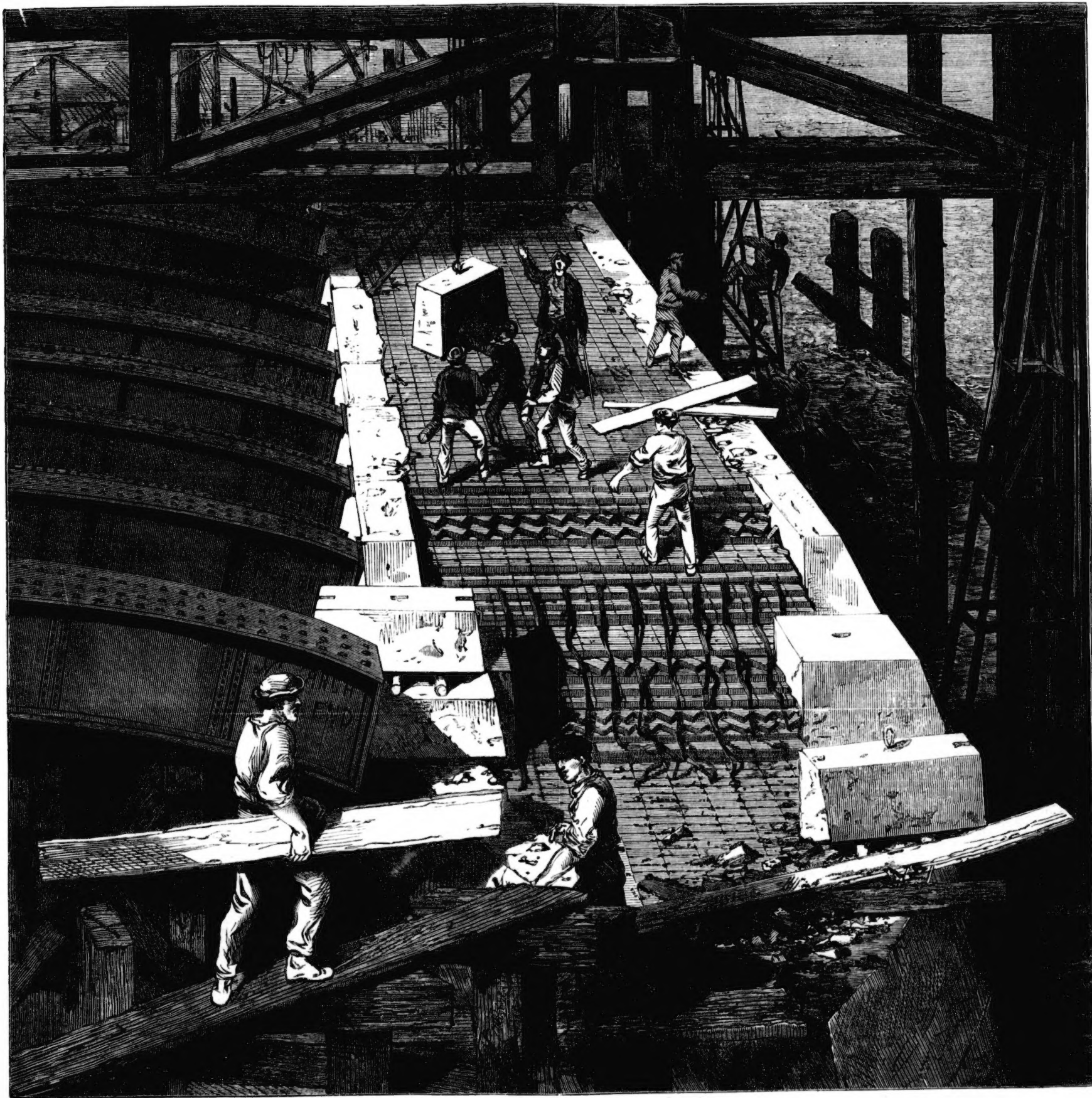
THE ACCIDENT AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD FROM THE BURSTING OF A CAISSON.

was passed in sinking slowly, but surely, into a state of hopeless dilapidation and decay. In spite of all the expensive remedies applied, nothing could restore it; and, in fact, it was allowed to stand long after it was dangerous for public traffic. Only its shoring of timber kept it up; and even this was found insufficient when the work of taking down commenced, and it was necessary to strengthen it to prevent the disused old obstacle to land and water traffic from falling into the river. The recent removal of the old piers disclosed an alarming state of things. In some cases the foundations had been completely burrowed under by the rush of water, while the wooden caisson of the centre pier was split from end to end by the weight of the masonry above it, and was only held together by the piles of broken stonework which were heaped up all round it when this fatal defect was first suspected. In fact, those who have had to do with the removal of the old piers have only been surprised that they maintained their superstructure for so long a time, and can give no scientific explanation why the whole bridge did not crumble into ruins some ten years back. As we have said, in some cases the water had tunneled under the piers, in others, as fast as

the water got under them the piers themselves sank and followed it. Thus some foundations were above what is now the bed of the river, and others were 10ft. or 12ft. below it. The same causes are now operating against the rapid completion of the new structure. As the bridge is to consist of only five arches, it only wants four water piers and the two shore abutments on the Surrey and Middlesex sides. Counting from the Surrey side, Nos. 1 and 2 piers have been quite completed, and are ready for the ironwork—indeed the ironwork for the first arch on to No. 1 pier is fixed, or rather fitted together, already. No. 3 pier has also all its caissons sunk down to the London clay, and the work of building the pier foundations begun. It is the last pier—No. 4, that next to the Middlesex side—which is at present offering all sorts of engineering difficulties to completion. It is on this bank of the river, where the scour has been least, that the soft spongy mud is thickest. Close here, too, was the mouth of the old Fleet Ditch, which, centuries ago, used to drain the marsh then close upon the banks of Blackfriars. Whether the ditch itself deposited this deep bed of soft slime, or whether, as is more probable, the soil at this spot partakes of

the spongy nature of the marsh the ditch was made to drain, cannot with certainty now be said. But whatever the cause, the effect remains the same, which is that, up to the present, no safe foundation for this pier has been got, though the caissons are now sunk more than 30 ft. below the bed of the river.

To understand the nature of this obstacle, a few words about the way in which these piers are built, and indeed, most bridge-piers are built, nowadays, may not be uninteresting. In almost every sort of great engineering, architectural, or nautical undertaking wood has given place to iron. Wooden coffer-dams for piers of bridges would be as much out of place now as wooden sailing-ships or mail-boats. Wrought-iron caissons for this purpose of bridge-building are a purely English invention, though the name is French. The piers of New Blackfriars Bridge are each 110 ft. long by 22 ft. wide. Instead of building these by the slow, and therefore expensive method of damming out the river by a coffer-dam of piles, they are constructed by means of wrought-iron caissons, six caissons being required for each pier. These caissons are simply square wrought-iron tubes, open at both ends, and



WORKS AT NEW BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.

strengthened inside with powerful girders to resist the pressure of the water. They are sunk on end in a row exactly the length of the pier, and on the spot where the pier is to be built. There are valves in them which allow the tide water to enter and leave freely as it falls and rises, and so in a few days the great weight of the caisson all resting on its lower edge sinks it deep into the river mud, generally down to the water's surface, where it will go no further. Another rim or tube of wrought iron is then bolted on to the top of the caisson, and the girders round the inside of this weighted with iron ballast to the amount of about 100 tons, and this generally takes it some 10 ft. or 12 ft. deeper. At all events, as long as the caisson continues to sink other rims are bolted to it, and other weights are added till it will go no further. In this state it is generally suffered to remain a week or so, when the last weights which the iron will bear are added, and this final test generally sinks it a few inches deeper. All is then secure, for by that time the end of the tube is as deep as it will go into the London clay, and far below the bed of the river. What has to be done then is very simple. The water is pumped out of the tube by a steam pump in a few hours, and its lower end being perfectly sealed by its penetration into the soil keeps it perfectly dry. The mud and ooze which it has inclosed are dredged out down to the clay, and when this is reached and levelled the work of building the foundations is commenced some 50 ft. below the surface of the Thames, but still in open day-

light and in a perfectly dry and safe chamber. The foundations are laid in the hardest brick, set in concrete, and, thus built, the piers are solid from end to end up to within 6 ft. of dead low water. Here the massive courses of granite commence in huge blocks weighing from 12 to 15 tons each, and these are continued up to the height from which the ironwork of the arches springs. Such, in brief, has been the manner in which Nos. 1 and 2 piers of New Blackfriars Bridge have been built, and such is the plan on which No. 3 pier is now building. It is much to be wished that the same could be said of the last—No. 4 pier, on the Middlesex side. The caissons for this have all been placed and weighted, and ring after ring added as they reached the surface of the water, yet still they continue to go down, and as long as they do so no really firm foundation has been reached. Already the caissons are far below their contract level, but they are still sinking. For more than six months has the progress of the works been delayed by this obstinate pier, and nearly £12,000 additional expense has been incurred. The caissons have been weighted to the utmost they will bear with safety, and the sinking goes on, but in such an uncertain and erratic manner as clearly shows the rotten and unsafe nature of the soil through which they are passing. Thus, for days they may remain immovable, or only sink an inch or so, while very recently they went down 13 in. in a single night. Of course, until they have taken their bearings, as it is called, and will go no

further, nothing can be done, for to pump the caisson out with its lower end still insecure would be only inviting such a rush of water beneath it as would again double the labour to be gone through to clear it. Not much further difficulty, however, is now apprehended. Notwithstanding the depth of water in the caisson, the divers, to the number of five, are daily at work in it, dredging out the interior of the tube and sending immense quantities of soil to the surface. Their reports all tend to show that the bottom of the tube is very near the clay, and that a few feet more of penetration will make its lower end perfectly water-tight. In the mean time, the other portions of the works are being carried on with all the speed that is possible. As has been stated, the first arch from the Surrey abutment to No. 1 pier is almost complete. The ribs of the arch are laid, the cross girders are bolted in, and even one part of the upper parapet has been fixed on the western side. Still, this is only putting the iron-work together; for the arch itself rests on its centering, and not on its stone piers, from which it is raised by wedges for a distance of a few inches. When all is complete, these wedges will be gradually removed, and the entire arch lowered into the bed-plates in the masonry, to which it will then be bolted. Little security, however, is needed beyond its own weight; for each arch is as firmly bolted together as if it were one piece. The ribs, which are of wrought iron and 5 ft. deep, are placed at intervals of about 9 ft. apart. At right angles with them come the cross struts, running the whole

width of the structure, and these are bolted in at intervals of only 6 ft. apart. Over these, again, so as to form a continuous wrought-iron skin, will be riveted "buckle" plates of wrought iron. On these will rest the asphalt and filling-in rubble, and over all a solid granite pavement, like that on London Bridge. The last foundation of the last pier of the old bridge is now being removed. It has sunk rather deep in the river bed, and the divers find the work one of no small difficulty. The blocks of Portland stone thus being recovered, after being more than a century under water are in a state of most perfect preservation, and some of them will be used again in the new structure. While removing one of the Surrey piers two foundation-stones of black slate were brought to light. One of them is evidently a stone that was laid with all pomp and ceremonial; while the other and smaller one found near it was as evidently stowed away on the same day, but prior to the ceremonial, by some master workman, who took this advantage of his opportunity to hand down his name to posterity. The clear cut inscription on the first says:—

On the 23rd day of June, 1761, in the first year of the reign of King George III., the first stone of this first pier was laid by Sir Robert Ladbroke, Knt., and President of the Honourable Committee for carrying this bridge into execution. Robert Mylne, Architect; Joseph Dixon, Mason.

The second stone says:—

On the 23rd day of June, 1761, in the first year of the reign of King George III., the first stone of this pier was laid by Joseph Dixon, master mason to this bridge.

It is more than probable that the last-mentioned stone was really that which was first laid.

One of the granite columns which are hereafter to ornament the east and west ends of every pier has already been delivered at the works, and two more are expected shortly. They are splendid specimens of granite work, though seen at present, when not mounted on their pedestals nor crowned by their richly-carved capitals, their great diameter (7 ft.) appears somewhat disproportionate to their height, which is only about 12 ft. Each column is composed of three single blocks of magnificent size, and all have been polished to the fineness of cabinet-work in a lathe which had to be specially built for the purpose. The carvings for the capitals of these have been entrusted to Mr. Phillips, and are well in hand. These capitals are to be of Portland stone carved in high relief—those facing down the river with marine plants and fishes, while those facing up the stream will be decorated with the fishes and water-weeds peculiar to the Thames. Those connected with the bridge works state that the Thames water has never been so free from any smell as during this summer, while the quantities of roach and dace found in the caissons when pumped out have been unusually numerous and large in size.

Altogether all the details of the bridge are fast progressing, and this time next year ought to see it fit for public traffic, though it will probably be a year and a half before it is finally completed to its utmost finish.

AMONG THE DISCOVERIES MADE BY THE CAMBRIAN SOCIETY during their recent meeting was an old gravestone with the name "Cinderella, aged twenty years," in Wormbridge churchyard.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—The telegram announcing the release of the prisoners has not yet been followed by instructions for countermarching the preparations for the expedition. The work of fitting the ships is being briskly pushed along, and the whole of the transports will be ready in a few days. Of these fourteen, or two thirds of the required number, have been taken up in Liverpool—eleven for troops, and three for mules and stores. The West India and Pacific Company supply four—namely, the American, the California, West Indian, and Bolivar; the National Steam Navigation Company two—the England and the Queen; and the fine new steamer, the France, is under survey, and it is expected will be chartered. The Inman Company furnish the City of Dublin, the City of Manchester, and the Kangaroo; Mr. C. E. Dixon, the Bosphorus; and Mr. Fernie, the Peruvian. The Meander, belonging to Messrs. Bibby, has been placed under survey for the conveyance of mules; and the Bolivar, taken up on Tuesday, was on Wednesday sent round to Deptford to be fitted up for the same description of service. Two of the Liverpool Admiralty surveyors have been dispatched to Newcastle to survey the steamers Emperor and Empress, for the conveyance of mules and stores. A detachment of the Military Train, consisting of Captains Morrison and Miller, Lieutenants Devine and Walsh, Ensigns Noake and Stone, and twenty-six men, left Southampton on Wednesday in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-ship Masella, for Alexandria, whence they proceed to Suez for service in connection with the Abyssinian expedition.

COTTAGE BUILDING BY THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND. At the village of Lesbury, which lies on the road between his ancestral seat, Alnwick, and the sea, there are now building various sets of cottages, in which great consideration has been given, not only to external rightness and interior comfort, but to general sanitary requisites. On entering the village from the west, the first of the series presents itself. This is a very striking double cottage, nearly completed, having a central gable and two one-storied wings. In the apex of the gable is another story, affording to the two cottages just that much extra accommodation that in so many cases makes all the difference between decency and the reverse. In these houselets the window difficulty is very successfully managed; for, without having recourse to the diamond-paned lattice, a very picturesque effect is gained. The secret of this appears to consist entirely in the proportions of the window opening, and the mullions that divide each of them, into four compartments. These windows are amply large enough to make each room cheerfully light, without having that bare factory-like appearance that large openings in small cottages generally produce. The sanitary arrangements are upon an equally satisfactory basis. In most Northumbrian cottages the labour of the person intrusted with the charge of feeding the pigs has alone been taken into consideration, and the sties are placed as close to the back door as they can be erected, and more frequently than not built against the back wall as lean-to. But in these instances the pigsties, as well as the necessary conveniences for the inmates, have been placed some 30 ft. in the rear, leaving a small garden space between them and the cottage wall. Seeing how faithfully models are copied in the country for years, we may look upon this as a progressive innovation. In the same village there are sets of single and double cottages now finishing that will, doubtless, give a tone to all future cottage-building in the locality, whether on the dual estate or otherwise. Some farmhouses, too, have been rebuilt.—*Builder*.

THE PASCAL-NEWTON CONTROVERSY.—At last week's sitting of the Academy of Sciences, M. Fougère read the paper he had been requested by the commission on the Pascal question to prepare, with a view to examine the authenticity of the correspondence published by M. Chasles. We have reason to believe that this paper will have set the question at rest once for all, as there is not a more audacious case of literary forgery on record. M. Fougère, who some years ago had the MS. of Pascal's "Pensées" intrusted to him for fifteen months by the Imperial Library, and passed the whole of that time in deciphering it, may surely be trusted when he states that the forger, whom some people believe to be a gentleman who acquired a certain unenviable notoriety in 1848, had not even taken the pains to imitate Pascal's handwriting. Operating with an incredible assurance, he had accustomed his hand to write in an old-fashioned way, and used to a certain extent the orthography of Pascal's time. It was thus he had been enabled to concoct such an enormous number of letters, allowing his imagination free scope. He had taken some old paper (and that must have been his chief difficulty), but notwithstanding all his ingenuity, he had not succeeded in producing between a new ink and old paper that combination which can only be the work of time: the appearance of the ink in some places retaining its natural colour, in others turned yellow by an ill-disguised process, would alone be sufficient to expose the fraud. Moreover, the letters attributed both to Pascal and to his sisters are all in the same handwriting; there are besides a vast number of small details which could only be rendered intelligible to persons having the documents before them. M. Fougère then passes to the scientific question, and asks how it is possible that Pascal could have discovered the laws of universal gravitation when he did not even admit that the motion of the earth round the sun was proved? In support of this assertion M. Fougère quotes the following passage from the 18th Provinciale:—"It was in vain you obtained against Galileo the decree of Rome which condemned his opinion touching the motion of the earth. It certainly will not be that decree that can prove to us its immobility, and, if we had decisive observations, showing that it turns, the whole human race together could not prevent it from turning, or prevent themselves from turning with it." This is certainly a curious passage for a man to write who is supposed to have discovered universal gravitation. M. Fougère points to another fragment blunder committed by the forger. In one of the notes, supposed to have been written by Pascal to Boyle, in 1682, there is the following passage:—"They quote as an instance of the attractive power the froth that floats on the surface of a cup of coffee and suddenly rushes to the brim." This supposes coffee to have been a common beverage in Pascal's time, whereas it was only introduced into Parisian society in 1669, by Soliman Aga, Turkish Ambassador to the Court of Louis XIV. M. Fougère, lastly, examines the style of the letters, and pronounces them to have been written by one who was not a Frenchman. Moreover, they are filled with commonplaces far beneath Pascal's genius, and not used by him; and he concludes by advertising to M. Chasles's refusal to state how these documents came into his hands and by strongly condemning this barefaced attempt to deprive Newton of his well-deserved glory.

TRADES UNIONISM IN LANCASHIRE.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the opening at Manchester of an inquiry similar to that recently held at Sheffield into the operation of trades unions, the Queen's printers have issued the evidence which doubtless suggested the expediency of holding a court in Lancashire, and which has been taken by the London Commission at several sittings. The witnesses who have been examined in London are:—Mr. Edmund Ashworth, a county magistrate and chairman of the Manchester Assize Courts; Mr. Robert Richmond, an inspector in the Manchester division of the Lancashire County Police; Mr. John Bristow, a builder in Manchester; Mr. George Harrop, an inspector of police at Droylsden, near Manchester; Mr. John Kettle, foreman of the bricklayers employed in the building of the new gaol behind the Manchester Assize Courts; Mr. J. West, a master carter of Manchester; Mr. Joseph Barlow, a brickmaker of Droylsden; Mr. M. J. O'Neil, a former secretary of the Operative Bricklayers' Society; and Mr. James Clarke, secretary of the Stockport Bricklayers' Union. The evidence of these witnesses, which is very voluminous, relates largely to strikes, outrages, and coercive proceedings, which will probably be more fully investigated at Manchester.

The strike which has most interest for Manchester is that in connection with the building of the Assize Court Gaol. Mr. Ashworth and Mr. Kettle are the witnesses on one side, and Mr. O'Neil was examined on the other. Mr. Ashworth gave his account of the origin of the dispute from a carefully-prepared written statement. The bricklayers were building the foundation-wall of the new gaol. The leader of the labourers' gang ought to see that the supply of bricks and mortar to the bricklayers is properly regulated. In this case they sometimes had a superabundance of bricks and a deficiency of mortar, and sometimes vice versa. The foreman, Mr. Kettle, remonstrated, but in vain. Mr. Kettle had come from Barrow-in-Furness. He had superseded a man named Salisbury, who had been borrowed by the contractor, Mr. Bramall, from Mr. Healy, who did the brickwork at the Assize Courts. There was a friendly feeling between Salisbury and the men, and they did not like his removal. That was the first grievance. The second was that Kettle found fault with an idle man named Welch, who spent 4s. worth of time over a measured yard of brickwork, for which Mr. Bramall would receive only 2s. 3d. Then there followed him from Barrow-in-Furness, in search of work, a labourer whom he had employed at Barrow, and in whom he had confidence. Of this man he made a leader in the gang which would not properly regulate the supply of material. In this he ran counter to usage, which is that the labourer longest employed on the job shall take precedence as a leader; but this was not a rule of the trade nor an invariable custom. Immediately the rest of the labourers refused to work, and in consequence the bricklayers were stopped. This narrative of the circumstances preceding the strike is based upon Mr. Ashworth's statement and Mr. Kettle's evidence; and the statement gives the following version of what ensued:—"The next day the contractor, Mr. Bramall, and his foreman wished the bricklayers to recommence work with such labourers as could be had, perhaps not all properly qualified hodmen; but they refused to work with them up to Thursday, when they (bricklayers) came to Mr. Bramall and wished to recommence work on condition that he paid them for all the time they had then lost. Mr. Bramall refused to accede to that. For some weeks the work stood still. The justices requested Mr. Bramall to make some progress with the work, and he therefore looked around for men, determined, if possible, to get non-society men to carry on the work, for no society men would take work with him. From great distances bricklayers, non-society men, were brought, and at length sufficient of them were procured to proceed with the work satisfactorily. These men had to be smuggled into the town, to be lodged on the ground, to be catered for and protected. A ban was thenceforth put upon the job, double pickets were placed in the streets, the stations watched, heavy bribes were offered the men to leave their new employ, and in some cases these temptations, with or without threats, prevailed; but the men who left were replaced. For many weeks this state of things existed. On July 26 the Assizes were to commence for the first time in Manchester at the new courts; it wanted but six weeks to that time, and great efforts were being made to get the building in readiness. The men on strike, being aware of this, prevailed on the joiners, whose work was the most needed at the courts, to take part with them to turn out, thinking by so doing to gain their own ends—viz., to compel Mr. Bramall to give in. The justices at this stage, seeing that matters were in a critical state, took steps to meet delegates from the men on strike to endeavour to arrange matters amicably. An understanding was come to that the dispute should be left to the arbitration of certain of the justices who had made themselves thoroughly acquainted with the question at issue, and after a long discussion, on inquiring of the delegates if they were empowered to accept the decision of the arbitrators, they confessed they were not so, and insisted upon the immediate dismissal of the offending foreman as a *sine qua non*, and the negotiation was so ended. Joiners to complete the courts were procured in the same way as bricklayers had been, and by dint of very great exertion the courts were ready. The contractor now had none but non-union men either as joiners or bricklayers. The works were regularly picketed, the men insulted and molested on every occasion possible—some were severely assaulted; but at last the union men saw it was useless longer to fight on, so towards autumn the pickets were withdrawn, and since then the works have gone on peaceably. The brickmakers have, however, refused to let the contractor have hand-made bricks on any other of his works, because machine-made bricks are here used, and now the union bricklayers of this district refuse to set any machine-made bricks; three years ago they did not refuse nor object to do so."

The following are some of the more violent outrages mentioned by the witnesses:—

The Rusholme outrage occurred in April, 1862. A body of twenty armed men went to the brickroft of Mr. Edward Smith at 11.30 p.m. Alarmed by the police, they made off, and were pursued. Overtaken, they resisted, and wounded two policemen. Their object was to destroy bricks. At Reddish, in 1844, Messrs. T. and W. Meadows introduced an improvement in the making of bricks, by which they would have saved 10d. in the 1000. The men claimed this, and struck. Three, without leave, returned and worked with non-union men. The union men offered to return if the three were discharged. Messrs. Meadows retained them. The union men returned, and six of them attacked and nearly killed one of the three, who, being yet in bodily fear, works under an assumed name. Of the six assailants three were sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude. One of the Messrs. Meadows having done a little bricklayer's work last June, all their men struck. At Levenshulme, on June 14 last, 4600 bricks were destroyed on the flats; on the 15th 30,000 were spoiled in one yard, and 47,000 in another; all on account of disputes with respect to the rule separating the Manchester and the Stockport districts, and a dispute between the two unions. Mr. Barlow, brickmaker, lives between Manchester and Stockport. Because he had withdrawn from the union, and his sons did not join it, a porter bottle, charged with powder, and a fuse, was thrown in at his parlour window, and soon afterwards another was thrown in at the bed-room window. Sometime afterwards another was thrown into the bed-room; the roof of the house was partly blown off, and Mrs. Barlow was injured and made ill for many months. The watchman, saved one night by a dog which seized the foremost of a gang of intruders, had his horse hamstringed next night. Another canister, or bottle, with an unexploded fuse in it, was found in the stable at a subsequent time. Mr. Barlow's son was also thrown down by two ruffians, and was shot by the explosion of a pistol in his own pocket. Mr. Barlow is threatened every week, and is in bodily fear. These things have been going on for three years. There was a strike of joiners at Manchester last autumn, and some non-union men whom Mr. Willshaw would not discharge were sadly ill-treated and had to be protected in the streets by the police. The murder of Police-constable Jump, of Smallshawfield, near Ashton, in June, 1862, resulted in the execution of a man named Ward, at Liverpool, and

the transportation of another for life. The murder was committed in an encounter of the police with eight unionists who had been destroying 8000 bricks at Stalybridge. They belonged to Mr. Clifford, who would not employ union men. In 1861 Mr. Hobson, of Ashton, had a dispute with his men about changing the mould for bricks. They struck, and at night five men entered the yard. They encountered a bulldog, had a desperate struggle with it, and, having stabbed it in three places in the head, got away. The men were never discovered. Mr. Tetlow, master brickmaker, Hurst, Ashton, does not employ union men. In November, 1861, combustible bottles, filled with blasting-power, naphtha, and slugs, were thrown into two of his windows and did a little damage. The offenders could not be traced. Mr. Tetlow's bricks have been destroyed by having needles thrown into them. In November, 1860, at Droylsden, a brickmaker named Rogers had a dispute with his men and employed non-union men; and one night the watchman, named Newton, was fired at and shot in the head. In 1860 Mr. John Simpson, brickmaker, Stockport, had a dispute with his burner, George Bayley, whom he could not get rid of, who threatened him, and fulfilled his threat by spoiling a large kiln of bricks, which had to be paid for as if they had been good. In 1863 he had 25,000 bricks destroyed by men walking over them in their stockings, and some with their shoes wrapped with rags to prevent their being traced. They cut to pieces barrows, planks, trestles, and brick-tables. In 1854 two men armed with guns, having frightened the watchman into his hut, set the brick-shed on fire, and knocked down walls of new bricks. They had their faces blackened. They poured liquid on the roof of the shed, and it burned brilliantly. The men fired several guns at him to frighten him. He drove away the men that were firing the shed by discharging his revolver at them. Some of the neighbours saw the fire, but were afraid to go to his assistance, and also saw the men running away. The police were soon on the spot, and found a two-gallon bottle and a can partly filled with naphtha, and some smaller bottles. The naphtha was on fire in many places, but was put out, as the timber was very wet. Messrs. Whitehead, of Ashton-under-Lyne, about two years ago, became obnoxious to the unions, and a great quantity of clay that they themselves had tempered (indeed, the thing had happened because they themselves had tempered the clay, instead of allowing union men to do it) was all utterly spoiled because needles were thrown among it, and, consequently, no person could put his hand upon it.

ANOTHER STRIKE.

THE following appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday last:—

SIR,—You have written of late, and most powerfully, against the proceedings of trades unions; and the folly of such combinations has been exposed in your columns most judiciously; but, if certain folks are not checked in their recently-proposed schemes, you will have to wield your pen upon this subject in a direction which could not have been anticipated. There is about to be a Curates' Union, and next, of course, in the natural order of events, a Curates' strike. And then—the deluge! Quite as probably, we should have said a few years since; but now nothing surprises.

A meeting has already been held in London—the Curate of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in the chair—at which speeches were made and resolutions were passed, which were briefly reported in most of the public journals; but, not attaching any great importance to this movement, as I suppose, you did not condescend to notice this remarkable clerical event in your columns.

To enable the clergy and the Church generally to appreciate the designs of the chief movers of this scheme, I subjoin a brief digest of the *gravamina* which they set forth in a large printed paper circulated at this meeting, and signed "C. P. C.," whatever that may mean. This document was sent to me by one of the chief projectors of the movement, and, therefore, may be considered authentic. Here are the hardships of Curates:—

"The insecurity of the Curate's position; the injustice of the present system of promotion in the Church—private patronage and political appointments; invidious distinctions between superior and inferior clergy; the inequality of stipends; the entire subordination of the Curate to the Incumbent; the relation to the Bishop—to the Curate he is an autocrat; no superannuation fund, pension, or half pay; the invidious term 'to keep a Curate!' the ignoring of the fact that there are only three orders in the Church; the irregular bestowal of the patronage of the Crown, Chancellor, Bishops, public bodies, &c.; the constant practice of making the Incumbent the only celebrant, and excluding Curates from the pulpit on Sunday mornings."

Even the attempts of good and kind friends to better the condition of these ill-used persons are regarded with scorn and indignation.

"The Curate is held up in exaggerated and high-flown language as the educated half-starved pauper." All the societies in aid of Curates are condemned, because, "while some of them assist him with money, and some with clothes, he is obliged to plead in *forma pauperis*, and too often" the administrators "are found hard, dogmatic, narrow-minded taskmasters." Even the Curates' Augmentation Fund is sneered at as "conveying the idea of patronage. Curates are not invited into the management, nor are the paid officers chosen from among the Curates."

These being the burdens under which Curates groan, the relief which they demand agreeth therewith.

"Curates are to become permanent; Curates to have a proper independence; to be protected from arbitrary and despotic treatment, whether episcopal or other; Curates to be on an equal footing in spiritual matters with the Incumbent; to be the Incumbent's assessor in things spiritual; the equality of priests; the right to celebrate at certain times; a system of promotion by seniority; the equalisation (according to population) of the stipends of Incumbents; the moneys of the various charities to be thrown into a common fund."

And no doubt to be managed by the Curates themselves, who are to be at liberty to abuse their benefactors after the law of universal equality.

Really, Sir, I have hardly patience to thread my way through such meshes of revolutionary silliness, amounting to no less than the total subversion of all the standing orders and usages in dealing with the property and authorities of the Established Church. But that there could be found Curates who composed, printed, and circulated such things as these through a public meeting called for the express purpose of inaugurating a defensive—rather I should say an offensive—movement in the Church proves that to utter a caution is not untimely nor inopportune. I am willing to believe that very few among the number of those excellent men who hold the office of Curates throughout the land would give in their adherence to such wild, revolutionary prepositions, or utter such ridiculous complaints as these; but they may be seduced into joining this movement without knowing whither it leads. It is well, therefore, they should know, and that the public should know, what is really in the minds of the primary instigators of this measure. I will yield to none in my desire that all clergymen who hold the subordinate office of Curates should be received and treated as gentlemen and brother clergymen; or that those of them who are in narrow circumstances should be assisted with every consideration for their feelings and for their sacred office. In a long ministry I have known this to have been done so effectually and so delicately as to elicit in most instances grateful acknowledgments. I do not believe the libel relative to the unfeeling and hard administration of clerical assistance, though it is certainly possible that such an isolated case may have occurred, nor do I deny that in some of the matters referred to amelioration might be suggested; but I must express my opinion that if anything could dry up the sources of charity in this direction—if anything, for instance, could check the noble tide of liberality, guided by the hand of wisdom and delicacy in the creation and disposal of the Curates' Augmentation Fund, it would be the discovery that sentiments like those which I have adduced were prevalent among the great body of our Curates. And, as one of their old "taskmasters," I would respectfully but earnestly caution all over whom I have any influence against a combination which can be pregnant only with evil, which will throw back any improvement of the condition of ill-paid Curates for many years, and which, if it succeeded, would establish a standing feud between Incumbents and Curates. Indeed, I can see nothing likely to satisfy the authors of this ill-judged document but a proposition that all the present Incumbents should become Curates and all the Curates Incumbents.

I have the honour to remain your obedient servant,

Ang. 31.

AN OLD INCUMBENT.

THE SHIP ALPHA, direct from Adelaide, South Australia, arrived at Leith, last Saturday, with a large cargo of wheat and flour for Messrs. Gibson and Walker and other importers. We believe this is the first cargo imported direct from Adelaide. The quality of the wheat is superior, and weighs 65 lb. to 66 lb. per imperial bushel.

METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANIES.—There is a proposal on foot for amalgamating the thirteen London gas companies into four, and thus assigning them districts. It appears to be favourably reviewed by the companies that one district should be assigned to the Chartered, the London, the Equitable, and the Western; and the gas supplied in 1866 by these four companies was 2,650,832,000 cubic feet. Another district would be allotted to the Imperial and the Independent, whose make of gas in 1866 was 2,761,017,000 cubic feet. A third district would comprise the City of London, the Central, the Commercial, and the Ratcliff, which last year sold 1,690,340,551 cubic feet. A fourth district would be supplied by the Phoenix, the South Metropolitan, and the Surrey, which last year sold 1,551,828,000 cubic feet.

THE LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

ON more than one occasion within the last year we have discussed the question of the water supply of London, the impurities allowed to pass into the Thames and the Lee, and the necessity of providing water that is alike pure and plentiful, instead of letting our rivers at once go to waste and be employed wrongfully. We analysed the first two reports of the River Commissioners, and the bill for the purification of the Thames which was founded on one of them. The schemes of some eminent civil engineers for supplying London either from Wales, Westmorland, or the Upper Thames have also been detailed. At the present time we have a bluebook before us, containing a full report from a Select Committee appointed to inquire into the operation and results of the Metropolitan Water Act, 1852, and the recommendations of that Committee open a new phase of the question. One of the chief points discussed in the evidence and decided in the report is the advantage of a constant supply, instead of the intermittent supply which has prevailed for some years. This alone will give rise to a considerable change in our system. If the results which follow are such as the engineers of the water companies anticipate, we shall probably have the Thames running dry, and shall be able to cross it dry-shod. But the committee does not harbour any such anticipations; and, if the committee is correct, we shall not be curtailed of our proper supply of water, and we shall be, to some extent, relieved of one very great plague—the plumbers.

It is admitted that if a constant supply was furnished with our present appliances, the waste of water would, in all probability, be enormous. The New River Company made the experiment of suddenly changing from the intermittent supply to the constant supply without giving any warning to the consumers, but after taking careful measurements of the average consumption. The average under the intermittent system was about ten gallons a head, and sixteen times that quantity was taken under the constant system. At the same time several of the leaden pipes in the houses burst under the unaccustomed pressure. The same was the experience of the Kent Waterworks Company with some houses in Woolwich. From 150 to 300 gallons per head were used daily during a short trial of the constant system. It is stated that in Glasgow the average daily consumption is fifty gallons per head, much of which is wasted. Even Mr. Bateman, the chief supporter of the constant supply, admits that the waste in Glasgow is terrific. The plumbing there is as bad as plumbing can possibly be (that is, he says in another answer, it is about equal to the plumbing in London), and "it is the universal practice of the plumbers, in order to let the water run to waste in the cisterns, to introduce what are called defensors which are rags attached to the waste-pipe, to prevent people hearing that the water is running to waste." He accounts for the indifference of the inhabitants to this waste by referring to the inexhaustible supply they have from Loch Katrine. Still it is comforting to learn that the lake is not being drained in order to wash out Glasgow and sweeten the Clyde. In spite of 22,000,000 gallons a day being drawn from Loch Katrine, the lake is fuller than ever it was. But of these 22,000,000 gallons, almost two thirds are wasted. "When I had occasion to draw attention especially to the subject of the waste, I found that the supply having been constant for many months, and every cistern therefore supposed to be full, in the dead of the night, between one and two o'clock in the morning, 14,000,000 gallons of water were going into Glasgow, all of which was wasted; and an inspection was then instituted, and from bad fittings over the cisterns, from bad kitchen-taps, to say nothing of the water-closets which could not be ascertained, the waste was 7,200,000 gallons a day; many cases were found of single taps running 800 gallons a day to waste, and which had been doing that for years perhaps for want of inspection." And, although Glasgow is the most flagrant instance, other towns are following its example. In Edinburgh the daily average is thirty-five gallons a head, though not more than twenty are wanted. At Boston, in the United States, the average consumption was said to be ninety-seven gallons a head. At Clifton, Bristol, the quantity of water running at night was found to exceed what was used during the day. These are some of the chief statements given us of the waste which is supposed to be unavoidable if there is constant pressure. On the other hand, the Committee, after listening to all these alarmist notions, has recommended the adoption of the system. The report says that this fabulous waste is very much a question of carelessness and bad fittings. The dangers to health which result from cisterns outweigh the evils of possible waste and preventable negligence. Even the engineer of the New River Company allows that the constant system would cause a saving in new houses, and would obviate the pollution of cisterns. The engineer of the Kent Waterworks Company says that his object in making his Woolwich experiment was to know the worst that could happen, and allows that the proportion of waste would depend on supervision and improved mechanical contrivances. Mr. Bateman has fitted nearly twenty towns with a system of constant supply, and finds that their average consumption is from fifteen to twenty-two gallons per head; and this is not much more than half the average consumption of London under the present system, as that ranges from twenty-one to thirty-four gallons per head, and varies with the different companies.

We have not, however, Loch Katrine at our back; and any such waste as that of Glasgow might be serious in London. It is calculated in the report that during the year 1866 the Thames Water Companies supplied almost 47,000,000 gallons to a population of 1,369,090 persons. Assuming that this part of the population doubled in sixty years, the supply of water required for it would not at the present rate exceed 100,000,000 gallons. It seems that the daily flow of the Thames at the source of supply exceeds 350,000,000 gallons in the driest times on record, while in wet weather the average is considerably greater. The Lee is not so inexhaustible, and will hardly suffice very long for the wants of the population of the east end of London. At present the New River Company and the East London Company supply nearly 42,000,000 gallons daily, while the average daily flow in the driest weather does not exceed 60,000,000 gallons. These facts make it the more essential that before we put it in the power of careless tenants to let the water run day and night we should take some steps to detect and provide against such a mischief. The opponents of the change tell us that if good fittings are put into small houses they will be stolen; that if a system of inspection is adopted tenants will rebel; that nothing will be easier than for thieves to wear the garb of workmen and force an entrance into houses. But we learn that, in Brighton, there is a system of inspection which causes little dissatisfaction; that the same system prevails in Edinburgh, and never gives rise to complaints; and that, in the latter place, at least, the brass taps are not stolen. The Committee suggests that the house-fittings might bear a mark like that of the crown on Government property, and that the sale of them might be repressed by similar precautions. Another suggestion, to which we alluded at the outset, is that the companies should provide all the fittings and apparatus required by their rules, and keep them in repair at the expense of the owners or occupiers. In this way the inspection which is requisite for the protection of the companies might be combined with the inspection which would secure the comfort of the owners, and they would be the less disposed to grumble at the interference with an Englishman's castle when they were guarded against the risk of an inundation. We do not complain of the present leaden pipes being burst by the constant pressure. It is just as well that they should be subjected to a more searching test than that which leaves them intact during the summer, in order that they may alternately freeze and burst with the changes of winter. Plumbers consult their own interests by making the pipes just strong enough to last till the next thaw. The companies will not care to lose their own water for the sake of the petty gains of trade; and if they contract to keep their fittings in repair for an established charge they will find it pays them to do the work well and seldom.

We have not space to enter into the details of the fouling of cisterns which were brought before the Committee. But, as the report declares that the use of such cisterns is, probably, a more fertile cause of impurity than any pollution of the river from which

the water is drawn, and as the facts we have more than once collected about the pollution of rivers show the strength of that comparison, we cannot wonder that the Committee counsels the abandonment of the present system, and the substitution of one which will, at all events, largely contribute to the health, comfort, and cleanliness of the people of this city.—*Economist*.

Literature.

The Romance of a Garret. A Tale of London Life. By SYDNEY WHITING, Author of "Helionde," "The Memoirs of a Stomach," &c. London: Chapman and Hall.

It is very difficult to deal, critically and yet conscientiously, with this book. It contains good points, and some very pithy and even striking passages; but it is so larded with blunders and puerilities, and has, moreover, been so carelessly written and revised, that any sense of pleasure the reader may derive from its merits is at once obliterated by annoyance at its faults. The story, which affects to be the autobiography of a London man of letters—that is, an author by profession, who writes for newspapers, magazines, &c., in order to obtain a living, opens with some specimens of early rhyming performances—very freely "chaffed," it is true, but which are only a little less silly than is the act of resuscitating them. Of course, the author is a "born gentleman," in whom the promptings of genius will have vent; hence his early efforts in prose and verse. But "other times and other fortunes came." The provision made for him by his father is lost through the failure of an insurance company, which brings upon Mr. Fisher the hard necessity of working to live. Accordingly, he takes to a garret—that being the proper thing to do; but a pretty comfortable garret withal. He has an excellent landlady—honest, cleanly, and kindly—though outraging the proprieties of speech to a very extraordinary degree. There is in the establishment, moreover, a mysterious, handsome, and exceedingly neat-headed Phyllis, who loves, tends, and takes care of Mr. Fisher and his belongings for some time, all "unbeknown" to himself. This person, Dorothea Vance by name—it may be as well to mention here—he ultimately marries, and she, as might have been expected, proves a most admirable wife. Although occupying a seemingly menial position, this lady is well connected; and, taking her all in all, we think Mr. Fisher need not have made such a fuss about "marrying beneath him" when he espoused Dorry Vance, for, to our thinking, she was his equal any day. In these last few sentences we have given a sufficient insight into the "Romance of a Garret," which is simply a record of Mr. Fisher's experiences as a *littérateur*, before and after marriage.

The merits of the work include a tolerably interesting story, interspersed with occasional bits of smart epigrammatic writing and biting sarcasms; some well-drawn characters, such as those of the landlady and Phyllis, already mentioned; Patrick O'Alley, a Hibernian journalist; Mr. Hannibal Fagger, poet and general author; and Colonel Stigaud, soldier, philosopher, and gentleman. There are also some good bits of description—such as the life and manners of the Alsobbs, a "serious" family with whom Mr. Fisher boarded for a season; and this description is good because it is true to nature. We have seen many specimens of the same style of being. The record of the hero's musical development while suffering from the affliction of blindness is refreshing and beautiful, if a little improbable; and in some of Colonel Stigaud's deliverances new and startling ideas are occasionally broached.

As for the faults of the book, their name is legion, and could only, we fear, have arisen from intense conceit, engendering extreme carelessness. We had made a note of some of the most glaring blunders, with the intention of printing them; but we find they are too numerous to be reproduced in the space at our command. We must therefore content ourselves with making the author an offer of our memoranda, if he should ever have occasion to print a second edition, and cares to take the trouble of revising his work. It is a pity that our author did not submit his MS. or proof sheets to some one like Mr. Fagger, sen., who, we are told, "would never have permitted a slip-slop style, or errors of composition, to pass unchallenged." More grave faults than even these, however, are the author's assumption of knowledge in regard to matters on which he seems only partially informed—such as the insinuation that magazines are made up from chance contributions and not of the productions of a regular staff; or that a publisher would boggle on the score of expense, at giving a "small sum" for an edition of a thousand copies of a work, and yet readily offer fifty pounds for the privilege of printing 500 copies, when practical men know that the difference of cost would be comparatively trifling. Then our author is excessively fond of showing off his learning, and must use Greek, Latin, and French words and phrases where plain English would have done every bit as well, or better. He furthermore affects a mystery when referring to well-known persons by a liberal use of initial letters and dashes, thus:—"Mr. T—k—y," "W—H—R—, of Crimean celebrity," "poor W—e—C—ke," "Mr. K—e, the historian," "A man in the green-room, R—t K—y, to wit," "Miss B—C—ts," and so on. This device conceals nothing, and is mere "affectations," as Parson Hugh Evans would have said.

A Week in a French Country House. By ADELAIDE SARTORIS. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a reprint from the *Cornhill Magazine*, with the additional interest of the author's name. Many of our readers must have already made up their minds as to the strange excellencies and blemishes of these pages. The character of Ursula, the heroine—as the chief female personage is always called by courtesy—is only heroic so far as heroism consists in flying in the face of all good manners. Her style of "carrying on" with M. Dessaix would never be tolerated in respectable society; and the young lady who tells the story does not scruple to use very unladylike language; indeed, a certain coarseness pervades the whole book. On the other hand, Dessaix is extremely amusing—other characters only less so; and Madame Stripes is a sketch that deserves careful filling in. Another merit strikes us forcibly. The reader who, probably, knows no more of life in a French country house than he does of convict life at Portland, cannot help feeling that the book is true. Not that the incidents are facts, and the characters portraits of particular persons, but that the whole general effect is founded on experience and recorded with certain artistic licenses. The reader, in fact, seems to be living out his own week in somebody else's French country house, watching the strange love-making and other oddities, and taking a share in the boar-hunting, or the excellent dialogues concerning the alleged inferiority of woman. Possibly, however, he may think it a trifle dull; country life sometimes is. Just at this time of year it is notorious how visitors to the gayest parts of our coast always rush to see the boat come in with the giddiest excitement. It seems, according to the present volume, that we differ in no way from our neighbours in this respect. Madame Olympie lives by a river, down which a boat passes every morning; and on one occasion—"The boat! where's the boat? Let me see the boat!" cried M. Kiow-ki, throwing himself impetuously into the spirit of the thing, and nearly overturning the table in the wild excitement with which he tore to the window. It was only the boat which comes down the river every morning regularly. To day it appeared in the very nick of time, and deserved extra notice; but I observed that whenever it appeared it always created a slight agitation. I suppose that the general monotony of their lives ended with making little events become important in their eyes. When it had passed out of sight, they returned to the table." In that last observation there is surely something like the key-note of the book—monotony. It is monotonous, and cannot be said to contain a tithe of absolute story; but it has a certain freshness of scenery and character, and a vitality of singular power. We are quite certain that it contains the germs of many fine qualities for a high kind of fiction.

The Social and Political Dependence of Women. London: Longman, Green, and Co.

No one doubts that Mr. Mill remains unconvinced by the House

of Commons that it is not wise to suffer women to exercise the suffrage; and if column on column were devoted here to a similar purpose, it would be but so much space thrown away. Very much that the author says is right, or nearly so—i.e., it is not always difficult to agree with him. He brings plenty of great names to his aid, and does not lose his temper—except on one serious matter, the press. "The large majority of the articles in the daily and weekly newspapers clearly prove one thing—that they are written by men whose opinions on the philosophy of politics or any abstruse problem in the whole range of political economy—trades unions, strikes, population, pauperism, &c.—are utterly worthless. But the bulk of the people—the men to whom, too often, the newspaper is the only teacher—know even less than the majority of public writers, though their knowledge may not really be less reliable." Have we stumbled on a secret? Is "The Social and Political Dependence of Women" the work of a woman? There is a certain simplicity and a reckless style of induction in the paragraph which seems—without wishing to give offence—essentially feminine. Let us analyse it. Writers in newspapers are told that their opinions are utterly worthless, and a regret is expressed that they teach the people; and then the people are complimented because, although they don't know so much as the writers, that which they do know is equally good. Of course, it must be as good—or, rather, as worthless; and, of course, the readers are not likely to know so much as the writers, even if they read all the writers, which they certainly do not. It would be idle to quarrel with so ridiculous and sweeping an assertion as that just made; and, indeed, it reminds us that it would be idle to discuss any of these pages with their writer, since the opinions of journals are "utterly worthless." But the female mind is unfathomable. Why, if our opinions are utterly worthless, were those opinions sought, as the compliment of sending a copy of the book implies? At all events, the book has been read carefully; but, whilst admitting much of it to be worthy of consideration, it is undesirable, by minute discussion, to revive a subject which will certainly have to rest for a time.

The Spirit Disembodied. When we Die we do not Fall Asleep: We only Change our Place. By HERBERT BROUGHTON. Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo.

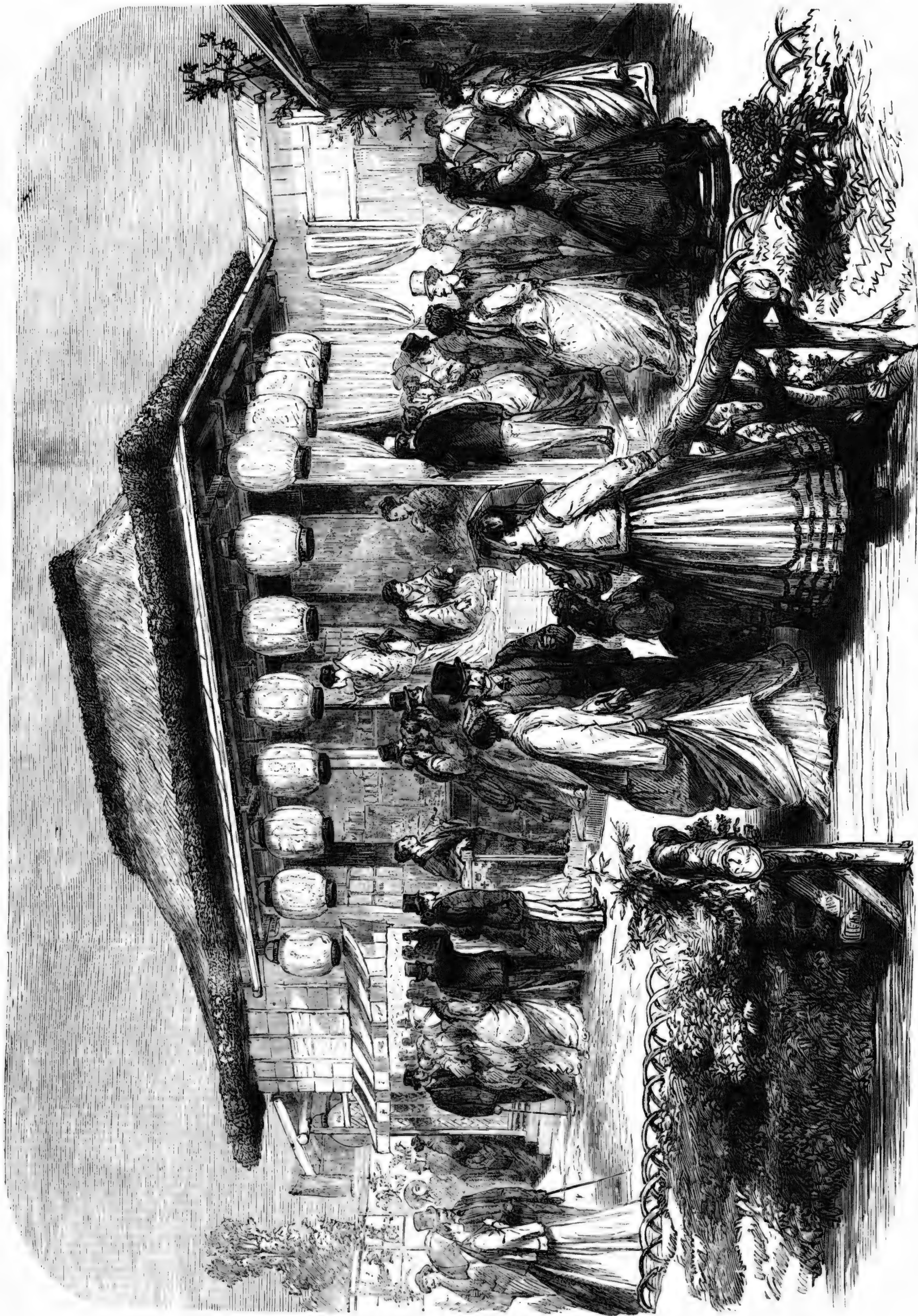
Mr. Broughton's little book, unlike most pious books, is not calculated to offend any person, because there are very few indeed who profess not to believe in a future existence beyond the simple state of dust which is inevitable, and those few do not meet with the ordinary abuse of zealous partisans. The dozen chapters may be summed up under three heads, in the author's own words:—1. Whether there is such a thing as an eternal, thinking, acting spirit disconnected with a material structure? 2. Whether man is an embodied spirit? 3. Whether a spirit which exists in a body can leave it, and thus become a disembodied spirit? "If," says Mr. Broughton—and it is easy to see on which side he will reason—"if the first of these premises be proved, there will be little reason for doubting the second, and still less the third; because the doctrine of the immortality of man may be regarded as resting on the same foundation as the existence of the Deity." The calmness with which these propositions are discussed and proved will please all serious readers; but disciples of Colenso's views will scarcely agree with wholesale belief in the literal inspiration of the Bible as necessary to a belief in the human spirit embodied and disembodied.

A Treatise on the Identity of Herne's Oak, Showing the Maiden Tree to have been the Real One. By W. PERRY, Wood Carver to the Queen. London: L. Booth.

Was Herne's Oak Herne's Oak? That, in substance, is the question Mr. Perry discusses in the neat little book before us. And he settles the matter very satisfactorily—to himself, at all events, and we dare say to most readers. He proves that the "maiden tree," which stood near the "Fairies' Dell" in the Home Park at Windsor, almost in a line with the elm avenue planted by William III., was the real oak haunted by "Herne the Hunter," and under which Sir Hugh Evans and his company of "urchins, oophes, and fairies" so befuddled Falstaff, as the same is set forth in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor." This "maiden tree" fell in 1863 in consequence of decay, and, as Mr. Perry was employed to make carvings from the wood thereof, he became much interested in the question of its identity with the Herne's oak of Shakespeare; and hence his anxiety to prove the "maiden" the real "Simon Pure," in opposition to those who claim that hoxour for a certain pollard that stood on the edge of a pit at a little distance, and which was cut down, in 1796, by order of George III., "because many persons confounded it with the real Herne's oak." As we have said, Mr. Perry, seems to have successfully proved his point, though it is just possible that Shakespeare had no particular tree in view when he wrote the play, and only used a current tradition applying to some tree as convenient for his purpose. Still, it is pleasant to associate a particular object, if possible, with the writings of our great bard; and therefore we thank Mr. Perry for settling the Herne's oak controversy in so satisfactory and interesting a manner.

EARL ST. VINCENT.—Earl St. Vincent was exacting upon minute points of etiquette to a degree which was irksome to his subordinates. It was the custom for a Lieutenant from each ship in the fleet to go on board the Admiral's ship, daily, I believe, for orders; but the office was always fulfilled unwillingly. On one occasion, and in a particular vessel, a dispute arose among the Lieutenants, each trying to show that the duty was not his; until, to the great relief of the others, a spirited young fellow volunteered. He went on board and introduced himself to the Admiral, then Sir John Jervis, who, after scanning his uniform, said, "I cannot give my orders to you." "Why not, Sir?" "I don't know who you are." "I am a Lieutenant." "I should not judge so from your dress." "I am aware of no defect in my dress." "You have no buckles in your shoes!" The Lieutenant departed, supplied the omission, and, returning, again presented himself upon the Admiral's quarter-deck, prepared to take his revenge. The first formalities having been gone through, Sir John was proceeding to give his instructions, when, to his great surprise, the Lieutenant said he could not take his orders. "Why not?" inquired the startled Jervis. "I don't know who you are," was the reply. "I am Sir John Jervis, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Fleet, &c." "I cannot tell by your dress" (for in truth the Admiral wore a simple undress). Sir John, without another word—for he was fairly caught—retired into his cabin, whence he soon emerged in the full costume of an Admiral, and the officer, having expressed his satisfaction, received his orders. The story goes that speedily promotion followed in this case, for Jervis had the good sense to appreciate the spirit of the one as well as the wit of the other.—*Notes and Queries*.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.—This Act will come into operation on Jan. 1, 1888, but will not apply to any ship which belongs to the United Kingdom and is absent therefrom at the time when the Act comes into operation, until such ship has returned to the United Kingdom. The Act contains twelve clauses, and sections 224, 227, and 231 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 are by it repealed. Its provisions enact that the Board of Trade shall issue and cause to be published scales of medicines and medical stores suitable for different ships and voyages; that all lime or lemon juice to be used on board ship shall be placed in bond, shall be there examined by an inspector, mixed with 15 per cent of spirits, and bottled in such manner as the Commissioner of Customs shall direct; that the juice so mixed shall be served out daily with water and sugar, at the rate of one ounce per man per day, and that any refusal to drink it shall be recorded in the logbook of the ship. Clause 9 enjoin that a space of not less than 72 cubic and of 12 superficial feet shall be allowed for the accommodation of every seaman; that the quarters shall be properly lighted, ventilated, and protected from effluvia caused by cargo or bilge-water; that they shall be kept free from stores or goods of any kind; that the number such place is capable of accommodating shall be cut permanently over the doorway or hatchway; and that, if these conditions be fulfilled, such space shall be deducted from the register tonnage. Permissive rules are also laid down for the medical inspection of seamen, which enjoin that the local marine board of any port may appoint a medical inspector, and that such inspector may be called upon to examine any seaman by request of the master or owner of the ship on which the seaman seeks employment. The Act relates wholly to the sanitary condition of merchant seamen with the exception of the last two clauses, one of which provides for the commitment of any British subject on board any British ship, or any foreign ship to which he does not belong, if the offence be committed within the jurisdiction of any court of justice in her Majesty's dominions, and the other gives power to grant a commission as justice of the peace to the harbour-master for the time being of Holyhead.



INTERIOR OF THE JAPANESE PAVILION IN THE PARK OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

A WONDER-WORKING ZOUAVE.

THE last excitement in Paris is a non-commissioned officer of Zouaves named Jacob, a Jew, who is said to have performed the most astonishing cures by the simple potency of his word; and can tell what is the matter with every patient at a glance. According to popular rumour he has cured the heir of the Bonapartes of scrofula, has cured Marshal Foley of hemiplegia, has cured the Count de Châteauneuf, or some such name, of long-standing paralysis, has cured this chiffonier, and that fishwife, and the other Auvergnat porter of most diseases known to man. So profound was the belief in his powers among the lower classes that the street in which he operated was blocked up, and the authorities have ordered the exhibition to end. Jacob, who was trumpeter in the corps, has been sent back to regimental duty, and, as a punishment for his attempt at imposture, has been condemned to extra drill at Versailles. A correspondent, who was present at one of his cures, gives the following account of what he saw:—

"The Zouave admits no one to his presence who is not really afflicted with disease or infirmity, those who are led to the Rue de la Roquette by curiosity being compelled to remain in the waiting-room. Fortunately I was furnished with a letter from his best friend, and became privileged at once. I entered the room with twenty of the most ragged and dirty of the whole mob, and am thus enabled to describe the scene. The Zouave was standing as if in a reverie when we entered pell-mell into the long, low apartment where the cures were performed. He was leaning against the wall, with his eyes half open, after the fashion of somnambula before entering completely into trance, the only difference being in the intense light shot out from the living orbs beneath the drooping eyelids. He neither spoke nor moved, while his father busied himself in arranging the visitors upon the low wooden benches before him. Every crutch and stick was taken from the infirm patients and placed in the corner behind the door, amid the timid whines of the poor frightened creatures, accustomed to look upon the help afforded by these objects as absolutely necessary to their safety. When all were seated thus, leaning the one against the other, the father, going close up to the son, whispered in his ear. He was aroused in a moment, and coming forward with a movement brusque and hurried, savouring of the military camp and not in the least of the solemnity of the magician's sanctuary, he walked up and down for a few minutes before the eager line of sufferers. To each he told the disease under which he or she was suffering, and the original cause of the malady; and, as no objection was made in any one case, I am led to suppose him to have been right in all. Presently, however, I observed him to stop suddenly, and fix his eye upon one of the patients who sat at the extreme end of the second bench, and, after examining him for a moment, turn aside with a slight shudder, which I observed was neither of disgust nor dread, but a kind of involuntary recoil. He said abruptly, pointing with his forefinger straight into the face of the individual he addressed, 'I can do nothing for your disease; it is beyond my power; go, and remember it is useless to return.' This was all; but the words acted upon the man like a magic spell. He shook from head to foot, like the aspen-leaf, and tried to gasp out a few words, but whether of prayer or expostulation it is impossible to say; for his tongue seemed paralysed, and clung to the roof of his mouth, while the Zouave turned aside with an indescribable expression of fear, certainly indicative of a kind of intimidation. But this was soon shaken off, and he again passed before the line, uttering simply the words,

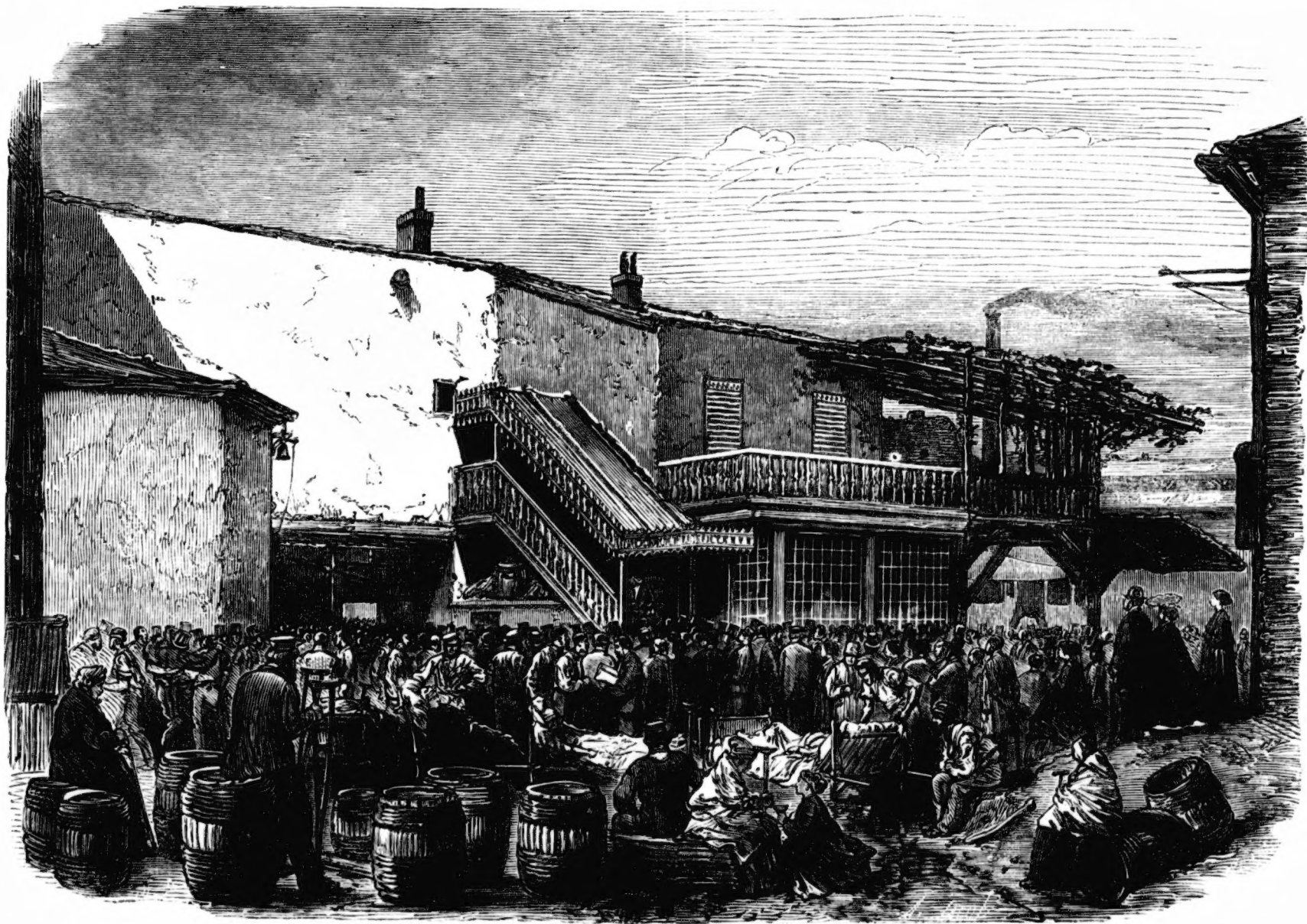
'Rise and walk.' The sound which simultaneously burst from the assembly could find no fitting description in any language. It was a sort of moaning whine, a kind of infantile wailing, evidently produced by fear and doubt. One feeble old beggar-woman, whose head had stopped its palsied shaking from the moment the Zouave Jacob had fixed his glittering eye upon her, was the one who gave expression to the feeling which had evidently taken possession of them all. 'Oh! how can I move without my crutches?' and, having turned a yearning look towards the corner where these old friends and supporters were standing, with a host of others, she began to mumble and moan most piteously. But the Zouave looked for an instant down the line, with an omniscient frown on his brow, as he found that not one of the patients had obeyed his orders. No pretension to the sacred character of a prophet, or inspired

seer, was there, for he stamped with such rude violence on the floor that the casement shook again. He almost uttered an oath, but it was unfinished, as he once more uttered the command to rise and walk, so that others might be admitted in their place. Then came the most strange and mysterious moment of the whole ceremony. One by one did every individual seated upon those low wooden benches rise and stand erect. No words can describe the singular spectacle offered by this fearing, hoping, doubting crowd; as each one found himself standing firm upon the legs which for years had ceased to do their office. Some laughed like foolish children, some remained wrapped in stolid wonder, while many burst into the most heartrending paroxysm of weeping. It was then that the Zouave stretched forth his arm and bade them pause. All was hushed and silent for a moment. The pause lasted for some time. I have been told that it is always so, but have not been able to account for its necessity; and then the door was thrown open, and the crippled and the paralysed, the halt and lame of the hour before, walked from that long, low, half-darkened chamber, with somewhat timid gait, it may be, but with straightened limbs and measured steps, as though no ailment had ever reached them. One or two amongst the number turned to thank their deliverer, but the Zouave dismissed them brutally. 'Be off; don't stand shilly-shally. You are cured, aint you?—that's enough—now *pietiez moi le camp!*' In plain English, 'Cut your stick, and be gone.' Before leaving the room I turned to look at the single patient whose case Jacob had pronounced as being beyond his power to cure. The man was paralysed in both arms and his neck twisted all awry. It certainly was a hang-dog countenance—worse than any I ever beheld—and the expression of rage, and hate, and fear, which it conveyed was unmistakable. His feet were paralysed likewise, and twined outwards. The Zouave's father searched amongst the sticks and crutches left in the corner for those which belonged to the only cripple destined to remain so, and as he touched each one, looked with inquiring glance towards the unhappy wretch, who answered with an awkward jerk of his wry neck, until he seized upon a sort of wooden shelf or go-cart upon wheels, which the cripple had been used to push before him. A boy came in to help him from his seat, and as he disappeared, supported by this aid, he uttered a poignant groan, which resounded through the place with the most weird and terrible effect imaginable."

THE WONDER-WORKING FRENCH ZOUAVE JACOB.

PARIS EXHIBITION.

AMONGST the distinguished visitors to the Great Exhibition we have already mentioned the son of the Tycoon of Japan, whose quiet, almost solemn, figure, attended by his "shadow," and showing an impassive, though not an indifferent, face everywhere, was one of the most noticeable even at the great festivals at which King and Czar were present at the beginning of the season. The Japanese have taken their part at the Exhibition very quietly, and, though they have made some display, we, who are accustomed to see so many of their peculiar manufactures in the grocers' and nick-nack shops, are not particularly surprised at the articles exhibited in the queer thatched-roof looking shed which is quite a model of the native ruder architecture and is filled with objects well worth examination. This Japanese outbuilding is, of course, quite distinct from the display in the building; it is in the Oriental section of the park that it offers its attractions to loungers, who are to be seen peeping in under the big paper lanterns and wondering at the company of natives—men and women—who sit there with that lacquered immobility of feature which seems to be a national characteristic.



ASPECT OF THE COURT OF NO. 80, RUE DE LA ROQUETTE, DURING THE AUDIENCES OF THE ZOUAVE JACOB.

CONCERTS AND NEW MUSIC.

THE Covent Garden Concerts, under the management of Mr. Russell and the musical direction of MM. Bottesini and Strauss, divide the attention of the musical public with the concerts given at the Agricultural Hall, under the direction of Mr. Kingsbury. The Agricultural Hall, of Islington, after serving as a place of exhibition for agriculturists, breeders of sheep, oxen, and horses, has now apparently found its true destination as a concert-hall. In point of size the Agricultural Hall is the finest in the world. The magnificent decorations fitted to it for the special occasion of the Belgian ball, have been very properly retained, and a great concourse of persons is now attracted to the establishment every evening principally by Mr. Kingsbury's excellent concerts, but in some measure by the splendour of the hall itself. The Agricultural Hall holds, we believe, something like four times the number of persons that a theatre of the first class will contain; and the building lends itself, moreover, to certain musical combinations which cannot be thoroughly realised in existing theatres and concert-rooms. The particular feature of Mr. Kingsbury's concerts just now is that characteristic specimen of the music composed by the late M. Julien called "The British Army Quadrille." Nothing can be better than the whole quadrille in the way of dance-music, but the last figure is something more than that—it is a military symphony in a simple, highly-intelligible form; and the entry into action of the English, Scotch, and Irish divisions of the British Army is suggested at the vast Agricultural Hall in a style that would be impossible in a building less capacious and less commodiously designed.

Mr. J. F. Barnett's setting of Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," produced at the Birmingham Festival, was, we are told, received with great favour. The libretto upon which Mr. J. F. Barnett has built his "Ancient Mariner" is the familiar poem of Coleridge, altered nowhere, but curtailed of one or two episodes, as, for example, that of the phantom ship and the game at dice for the life of the sailor who has been unlucky enough to shoot the albatross. Those acquainted with the poem will possibly be of opinion that, had it been really a good theme for musical treatment, it would have been laid hold of long since. Mendelssohn, they might argue, could hardly have missed it; or, in case of his overlooking it, there would surely have been one from among the crowd of his German and English followers to dress it up in a musical shape, as Niels Gade has done with the "Erl King's Daughter." But Mendelssohn knew better. There are only two personages in the "Ancient Mariner," and one of them, holding the other by the button, has all the talk to himself. The mariner tells a long story to which his victim is compelled to listen, however much against his will, and which really in the main concerns no one but the teller. To find effective music for such a subject demands remarkable inventive powers on the part of the composer. What he has to do is to describe a succession of scenes, more or less picturesque, to each of which he is bound to impart a special colour and a local interest. Of human interest in the narrative there is absolutely none, for it is about as difficult to get up a sympathy for the man who shot the albatross as for the albatross itself. The albatross is an abstraction, and the man a bore. Mr. Barnett has looked at his theme from a material point of view, and written accordingly. He has not attempted—and probably he was wise in not attempting—to indicate by any undercurrent that there was something more in the story than appeared on the surface; that a great poet like Coleridge meant more than the simple narrative of improbable events which forms the incidental parts of his metrical tale. Mr. Barnett has looked at these incidental parts, and, dreaming of nothing else, has set to work to describe them materially. His music would suit any other supernatural theme just as well as it suits the "Ancient Mariner." There is no depth in it, no apparent purpose. We have recitations, airs, a duet, and a quartet, in which soprano, tenor, contralto, and bass are variously employed; we have choruses of all sorts; but, *cui bono?* There is little or nothing in them that has not, in some shape or other, been heard before; and the whole wants earnestness of purpose just in the same measure as it is deficient in abstract musical interest. The solo singers in "The Ancient Mariner" were Mdle. Titiens, Mdme. Patey-Whytock, Messrs. Sims Reeves and Santley, whose zeal for the young composer was in the highest degree praiseworthy. Finally, the performance is said to have been in all respects worthy of the Birmingham Festival.

CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY.—A sporting paper contains, amongst its correspondence, two strange facts in natural history. One tells of an adder killed in a wood near Longford Castle that was found to have a full grown weasel in its belly. The second correspondent says he caught a pike weighing 8½ lb. in Loch Winnoch, Renfrewshire, and found, on opening it, a penny of 1861 in its belly. It is not an unusual thing for a pike to swallow metallic substances. An angler in the Lea not long ago caught a pike that had a latch-key in its inside, the explanation being that a roach-fisher a short time before plucked the depth of his swim with the best "plumb" he could get, and that happened to be his latch-key. In drawing it up it was pounced upon by a pike, gorged, and preserved by him, no doubt against his will, until he fell a prey to the fatal hook.

A COVENT-GARDEN DRAMA.—Here Ernest beheld a little episode in the life of a hungry and ragged child. An elderly provincial gentleman had come out of his hotel, and was walking up and down, eating some grapes. A small bunch of them fell from his hand. A small boy, who had been lurking somewhere in the gloom, darted to seize the little spoil; but his ill-shod foot slipped, and he fell before the gentleman, nearly tripping him up. Then set in a rapid but effective series of misfortunes to the child. He struck his head very hard against the column at the door of the hotel. The gentleman, angry at being nearly overturned, struck him a couple of severe blows with a cane. He ran away, howling, which enraged a dog that was watching a truck; and the dog flew out and bit the half-naked leg. Roaring with pain and terror, the boy cannoned into the very hand of a policeman, who seized him, but, perceiving, as was perfectly plain, that he had no plunder upon him, simply boxed his ears. His mother suddenly appeared round the corner, in time to see the officer let him go. She immediately punched his head and dragged him away, with a promise of a severe beating at home. And he missed his grapes. There—it is but the dirty history of a squalid child; and it is repeated, with variations, day by day in Covent-garden.—"Sooner or Later," by Shirley Brooks.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, a reward of £6 8s. was voted to pay the expenses of the institution's life-boat Civil Service, stationed at Wexford, Ireland, in putting off on the 17th ult., in reply to signals of distress, while it was blowing hard from the W.S.W., and saving, after much difficulty, the crew of four men of the smack Robert Hudson, of Arklow, which, while making for Wexford with a cargo of fish, had stranded on the south end of the Dogger bank. This life-boat has already saved forty lives from different shipwrecks. The silver medal of the institution and a copy of its vote on parchment were ordered to be presented to the Hon. Auberon Herbert for putting off in the Cromer life-boat of the Institution when it was short-handed, on July 26 last, with the view of rescuing the crew of a vessel which was wrecked near that place in a gale of wind and very heavy sea. The shipwrecked men had, however, been rescued by means of the rocket apparatus before the arrival of the life-boat. The second service claim of the institution was also voted to Mr. William Cubitt, of Bacon Abbey, Norfolk, the local hon. secretary of the National Life-boat Institution, for his gallantry on a recent occasion in saving life on the Norfolk coast. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore boats for putting off during recent gales and assisting to save life from wrecks on our coasts. A vote of condolence was ordered to be presented to his Grace the president on the occasion of the death of his father, the late Duke of Northumberland. It was reported that the institution had recently sent new life-boats to Stromness (Orkneys), Broughty Ferry (Dundee), and Hunstanton (Norfolk). The railway and steam-packet companies had, as usual, kindly conveyed the boats free of charge to their destinations. A grand demonstration had taken place on the 4th inst. at Hunstanton with that boat, which is the gift to the institution of the licensed victuallers of England. A most imposing demonstration had also taken place at Falmouth on the 29th ult., at the inauguration of the City of Gloucester life-boat on that station. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary of the institution, and Captain Ward, R.N., its inspector of life-boats, had assisted on the occasion, and the whole affair was most successful. It was decided to form a new life-boat station at Portrane, on the Irish coast. Mrs. Burgess, of St. John's-wood, had also decided to defray the cost, amounting to £420, of the life-boat and carriage about to be sent by the institution to Stonehaven, N.B., in memory of her late husband. Payments amounting to upwards of £2000 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats to the society on their recent visits to some of its life-boat stations on the coast. The proceedings then terminated.

THE REFORM FETE AND BANQUET.

A GENERAL meeting of the London Working Men's Association was held on Tuesday evening, in reference to the forthcoming fete and banquet at the Crystal Palace, on the 30th inst., in celebration of the passing of the Reform Bill—Mr. George Potter in the chair.

The chairman said the first business of the meeting was to confirm the action taken by certain members of the association in conjunction with the delegates from the trades and other societies in promoting the proposed Reform fete and banquet.

This having been done, the Secretary stated that he had received letters from Earl Russell and Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.:

Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, Aug. 31.
Sir, I beg you will thank the committee, in my name, for doing me the honour of inviting me to the Reform fete and banquet on Sept. 30. As, however, I expect to be in Ireland at that time, it will be out of my power to accept the invitation. It would not be candid of me to stop here, I must add, therefore, that I am too uncertain what effects Lord Derby's "leap in the dark" may produce to be a fit and enthusiastic companion for those who wish to celebrate the passing of the Reform Bill of 1867.

Other measures, unconnected with the Reform of Parliament, appear to me to be necessary to assure the future of this country. Among those measures are to be mentioned, in my opinion, a general, sound, unsectarian education of the people; the abolition of church rates; and a redress of grievances, both in regard to the relations of landlord and tenant, and of the maintenance of the Church of the minority, of which the Irish, as a nation, justly complain. Upon all these measures the present Government will, I conceive, use the influence they have acquired to resist and suppress those remedial measures which, in my judgment, are absolutely essential for the future welfare and honour of the United Kingdom.

I beg you will submit this letter to the committee, and remain, your obliged and faithful servant,

The letter from Mr. Gladstone was dated from "Hawarden, Chester, Aug. 27," and, after referring to his attendance at the proposed banquet, about which negotiations are still pending, goes on to say:—

It appears to me that such a celebration as your committee propose is amply justified by the great extension of the franchise which has been given by the Act, and that it will tend to create an enhanced sense of the duty which it imposes, as well as the powers and privileges it confers. Of course, your satisfaction would have been more complete had some other parts of the subject, and especially the redistribution of seats been treated in the same comprehensive manner as the borough suffrage, and had the enfranchisement in boroughs not been connected with provisions so inconvenient and irrational with respect to the payment of rates through the owner.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

Mr. Packer moved and Mr. Thomas seconded the following resolution, which was carried:—

That this association recommend the establishment of a fund to be called the Parliamentary Working Man's Election Fund, to be devoted to paying the legitimate expenses and promoting the return of working men to the reformed Parliament as the representatives of labour; and that the committee be instructed to prepare a plan for working out such proposition, and submit the same to a general meeting of members.

On the motion of Mr. Pardoe, seconded by Mr. Adams, the sub-committee of labour were requested to consider the propriety of at once convening a delegate meeting of the London trades' societies, to take into consideration the position of those societies consequent on the state of the law respecting picketing, as laid down by Baron Bramwell at the trial of the tailors at the Central Criminal Court.

THE RAILWAY OVER THE BRENNER, in the Tyrol, which has just been completed, is now the shortest road from Germany to Italy. It goes from Innsbruck to Botzen, and thence by the valley of the Adige to Verona. The new line passes through a country which is probably unequalled in picturesque beauty by any other district in Europe that is traversed by a railroad, and it will immensely facilitate the commercial relations of Italy with Germany, and especially with Austria.

THE CHURCH AT SAINT-PE-SAIN-SIMON, France, has been devastated by lightning. The electric fluid struck the clock-tower, and, although leaving the bell hanging, rent the foundation; descending into the church, it tore up the flooring, destroyed the windows and several paintings, flattened a tin vessel on the high altar, and drove in the door of the tabernacle, thence it went to a side altar and mutilated a figure of the Virgin. The edifice has been so much injured as to be no longer fit for Divine worship.

IN AN ULSTER TOWN a Protestant, aged sixty, was about to be married to a Roman Catholic girl, aged twenty, when her brother endeavoured by force to prevent the ceremony, and a great mob assembled. Within the church itself blows were exchanged, across one of the pews, between the bridegroom and the brother, and a wound on one of the eyes of the latter was the result. After the performance of the ceremony, the couple were mobbed, and had to be protected by the police.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, which holds its anniversary this year at Dundee, commenced business on Tuesday. Mr. Grove, Q.C., resigned the chair into the hands of the new president, the Duke of Buccleuch, who then opened the proceedings by an eloquent address. Instead of the essay-like deliverances which have been usually prepared and put into type beforehand, his Grace spoke extempore. The attendance, although good, was considerably smaller than at Nottingham last year.

BEERSELLERS AND "TICK."—Beersellers, from Jan. 1 next, will not be able to recover in the county courts the amount of anything they may have "chalked up" against their customers. The County Courts Amendment Act, which will come into force on the date named, provides "that no action shall henceforth be brought or be maintained in any court to recover any debt or sum of money alleged to be due in respect to the sale of any ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry, which after the commencement of this Act was consumed on the premises where sold or supplied, or of any security given for, in or towards the obtaining of any such ale, porter, beer, cider, or perry."

THE WORKING CLASSES AND SECTARIAN EDUCATION.—Bishop Twells is of opinion that the masses of the London wages-earning class can be attracted to the Church by the setting up of communities of men and women working in the midst of them. If the Bishop would only study the statement of the circumstances attending the erection of new schools at South Shields, which appeared simultaneously with his own expressions of his theory on the subject, he would possibly come to the conclusion that the mere multiplication of more clergy of the type which Bishop Twells especially represents is not likely to produce the results he anticipates. The Durham working men have declared most emphatically against the present clerical system in any form whatsoever. The cause of the decision has come before them in the shape of a question between the National or Church schools and the British or non-sectarian schools; the former being under clerical, the latter under lay, superintendence. For the support of the schools for the children of the workmen of the North-Eastern Railway and the Tyne Docks the general public has subscribed £1200, in the proportions of £900 to the Church school and £300 to the British school. But the workmen themselves have upset the whole proposition, refusing to allow their children to be educated under any clerical influence whatsoever; and on canvassing them from house to house it has appeared that there are about 900 children ready to be sent to the British school and only forty seven to the National. Accordingly they have declined the contributions of their richer friends, and have subscribed among themselves for the erection of buildings on the non-sectarian plan, the first stone of which has just been laid by Mr. Pease, the member for Durham. Bishop Twells, in fact, and all who think as he does, whether High Church or Low Church, Protestant or Catholic, are completely in the dark as to the means for what they call "getting at the heart of the masses." The mere multiplication of clergy and churches will never get at the brains of the multitude, whether in London or elsewhere, and it will only get at the heart of the more feeble and emotional. So far, doubtless, it is a good thing. It is not desirable that any of the poor should be left in their moral and spiritual desolation simply because they are women or weak-minded. But the conversion of women and weak-minded men to Anglicanism or any other of the orthodox creeds of the day is a totally different thing from the conversion of the real, living, acting power of the vast artisan class. And if there is any one thing against which they revolt, it is the perpetuation of the old distinctions between the clerical and the lay character, by virtue of which the judgment of the laity is laid prostrate at the feet of the clergy.

HOW MARSHAL SOULT OBTAINED HIS MURILLO.—Of the thirteen Murillos which Marshal Soult managed to collect in Spain, one of them, an "Immaculate Conception," at the Marshal's sale in May, 1852, was bought by the French Government for £23,440. We have an amusing story of the circumstances under which Soult secured his prize. In his pursuit of Sir John Moore he overtook two Capuchin friars, who turned out, as he suspected them to be, spies. On hearing that there were some fine Murillos in the convent to which they belonged, he ordered them to show him the way to it. Here he saw the Murillo in question, and offered to purchase it—all to no purpose, till the Prior found that the only way to save the lives of his two monks was to come to terms. "But," said the Prior, "we have had 100,000 offered for the picture." "I will give you 200,000," was the reply, and the bargain was concluded. "You will give me up my two brethren?" asked the Prior. "Oh!" said the Marshal, very politely, "if you wish to ransom them it will give me the greatest pleasure to meet your wishes. The price is 200,000." The poor Prior got his monks and lost his picture.—"Cornhill Magazine" for September.

THE MONT CENIS SUMMIT RAILWAY.

THE line of railway which has been in the course of construction for the last eighteen months over this pass, and which follows in the main the great road of the First Napoleon, was successfully traversed on the 21st ult. over its whole length of forty-eight miles by a locomotive engine. A train, composed of an engine and two carriages, left the St. Michael station at 6.30 a.m. There were present the Duke of Vallombrosa; Mr. Fell, the inventor of the system; Mr. Brogden, a director of the company; Mr. Bruners, the engineer, and his assistant, Mr. Bell; Mr. Blake, the agent of the company; Mr. Alexander and Mr. Barnes, locomotive engineers; Signor Copello, chief engineer for the Modane section of the tunnel; Captain Beaumont, R.E., Mr. James Brogden, Mr. Jopling, Mr. Morris, and Captain Tyler, R.E., on the part of the British Government.

Mr. Fell's system consists of the application of a central double-headed rail placed on its side in the middle of the way, and elevated about 14 in. above the ordinary rails. There are four horizontal driving-wheels on the engine, under the control of the engine-driver, which can be made by pressure to grasp the central rail so as to utilise the whole power of the engine, and so enable it to work up incredible gradients without slipping. The carriages also have four horizontal wheels underneath, which, with the central rail, form a complete safety-guard. In addition to the ordinary break, there are breaks upon the central rail. It would appear, therefore, impossible for the engine or carriages to leave the rails where the central one is laid.

The morning was admirably adapted for the trip, the sun shining with great brilliancy upon the Alpine peaks and the numerous glaciers which are visible in different parts of the route. After leaving the deep valley in which St. Michel is situated, the line passes by a gradient of 1 in 30 to the Pont de la Denise, where an iron bridge spans the river Arc near the site of that which was carried away by the inundations of last year. As the little train passed the village of Fournau, the workmen of the Grand Tunnel of the Alps turned out en masse, and, as at all other parts of the route, they were observed stooping down and even endangering their lives for the purpose of inspecting the unusual mechanism of the engine for working on the central rail. The first very steep gradient of 1 in 12 was seen in passing Modane, and, foreshortened to the view, appeared on the approach as if impossible to surmount; but the engine, the second constructed on this system, had already proved equal to the task on the experimental line, and clutching the central rail between its horizontal wheels, it glided quickly up, under a pressure of steam not more than 80 lb. to the square inch, without apparent effort. The progress was purposely slow, because no engine or carriage had previously passed over the line, and also to give opportunity for examining the works. The damages to the road on which the line was chiefly laid were found to be substantially repaired by the French Government. The magnificent scenery around and the waterfall near Fort Sessailon were much admired as the sharp curves afforded different views while passing on the edges of the deep ravines. The train entered Lanslebourg station under a triumphal arch, having accomplished twenty-four miles of distance, and attained an elevation of 2100 ft. above St. Michel.

From this point the zigzags of ascent commence, and the gradients over a distance of four miles were for the most part 1 in 12. Looking down from the train near the summit, as if from a balloon, four of the zigzags were visible at the same instant to a depth of 2000 ft. The power of the engine was satisfactorily tested in this ascent, and the summit was reached under salves of artillery from an improvised battery and amid the cheers of French and Italians who had gathered to welcome the English on the frontier. The engine again came to a stand under a triumphal arch, at an elevation of 6700 ft. above the sea. Flags of the three nations, and a silk flag specially presented by Signor Gioioli to Mr. Fell, waved over a sumptuous breakfast, also provided by that gentleman. The hospice, the lake, and the plateau of the summit, surrounded by snow-clad peaks and glaciers, rising to an elevation of from 10,000 ft. to 13,000 ft. were passed, and the portion of the descent commenced from the Grand Croix. The railway here follows the old Napoleon road, which was abandoned long since for diligence traffic on account of the dangers from avalanches. Masonry-covered ways of extraordinary strength had here been specially provided for the railway.

The descent to Susa was a series of the sharpest curves and steepest gradients, on which the central rail had been continuously laid. The Valley of the Dora, with Susa and the Convent of San Michel, and even the Superga above Turin, visible for thirty miles in the distance, presented a magnificent panorama, as the train wound through a clear atmosphere round the mountain side. The confidence of the party on a trip which would, under ordinary circumstances, have been so dangerous, was manifested by their crowding round all parts of the engine, from which, under a feeling of the security afforded by the central rail, they thoroughly enjoyed the ever-changing scenes as they passed round the edges of the various precipices. Susa was entered amid the acclamations of multitudes of spectators, and the party adjourned to dine at the Hotel de France.

Thus was completed a journey unexampled in its character, both as respects the steepness of gradients, the elevation of the summit level, and the difficulty with which the curves and precipices were overcome.

HISTORIOGRAPHER FOR SCOTLAND.—Mr. John Hill Burton, advocate and LL.D., has received the appointment of Historiographer to the Queen for Scotland. Mr. Burton has devoted so much of his time to the elucidation of Scottish history, and his historical works, especially the volumes of his history of Scotland recently published, have been regarded with such marked favour, that, although he is not a supporter of the Government, his claims to be selected for this honourable distinction must have been considered very strong; and we do not doubt that the friends of literature will consider that the appointment has been appropriately bestowed on so distinguished a writer of Scottish history.—"Edinburgh Courant." [Mr. Burton has also been elected Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow.]

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A SEWER.—A sad accident has just occurred at Flint, by which five lives have been sacrificed from causes which, notwithstanding all the scientific wisdom of these days, are continually producing similar disasters. A boy, having descended a shaft used for ventilating a drain at the chemical works of Muspratt and Co., was overcome by the foul air, and fell to the bottom, at which was some depth of water. Four of the workmen descended in succession, and each met with the same fate. It was not until a fifth proposed to go down that the precaution of tying a rope round him was thought of; but it then was too late to render efficient help. The five bodies were recovered by means of grapnels. It is impossible not to admire the self-devotion and courage of the unfortunate men who thus lost their lives in attempting to save others; but, considering the nature of their employment, their stupidity is equally remarkable.

THE COURTS OF LAW FEES.—One of the last Acts passed in the recent Session was for the application of surplus fees paid by suitors in the superior courts of law, and other courts, towards the expenses of providing the intended Courts of Justice; the accounts are to show the surplus and deficits of the receipts and expenditure, and on a surplus the Treasury is to issue the amount to the Courts of Justice Redemption Account, to be applied towards the discharge of the Redemption Annuity of the New Courts. Amended tables of fees may be prepared, and provision may be made for payment into the Exchequer of money received in respect of fees by the Court of Bankruptcy or any other courts towards the New Courts of Justice, so that the statute has range over the courts, and the surplus income to contribute towards the expenses of the Courts of Justice. It is to be cited as "The Courts of Law Fees Act."

GENERAL ROBERT NAPIER.—General Napier, who has been named for the Abyssinian command by a sort of popular vote, is not a member of the well-known fighting and writing family of that name. Until the prime of life he was unknown to the world, and unfamiliar with arms, being employed exclusively in the Public Works Department in India, in common with the greater part of his corps, the Bengal Engineers. Called suddenly into service in the Sikh wars, Robert Napier at once established a military reputation for energy, activity, and soldierly instinct, which he has abundantly added to in his larger charges during the mutiny and in the Chinese expedition. In the latter he commanded one of the two divisions of our army, under Sir Hope Grant. After the treaty of Peking released him from Chinese service, he was appointed Military Member of the Supreme Council of India, but has lately resigned his appointment to accept the less lucrative but more congenial one of the Commander-in-Chief at Bombay. Sir Robert is a splendid horseman, and is said to be gifted with wonderful bodily endurance.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1997,